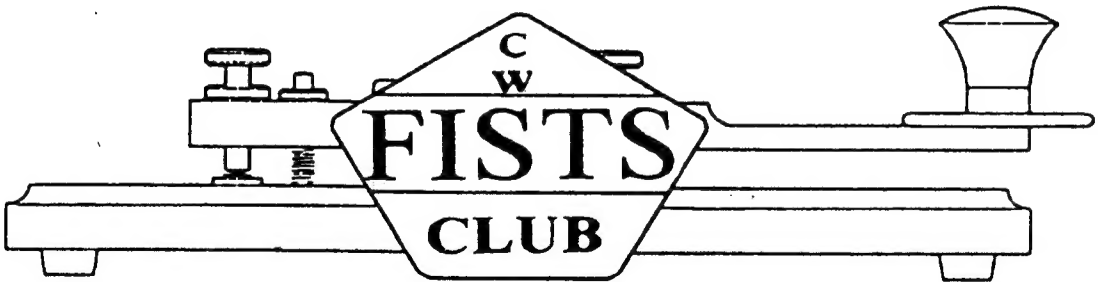


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I...?

***JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 17 = **FREE** Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge - only one newsletter is mailed per household. **FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440** **NOTE: CHECKS can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received.** Nancy processes them, updating the database, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. **Questions?** Write to nancy@tir.com

***GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page.

***Join the FISTS Email List?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi, at FISTS-Elist@attbi.com. Due to spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership.

*** ORDER SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, W08E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038; gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Rubber stamp of FISTS logo to use with an ink pad (not included) \$5.00; embroidered patch with key logo \$1; The Art & Skill of Telegraphy book \$13.23; Please make checks out to FISTS, these prices **DO** include postage. Mugs and shirts are sold out.

***GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to Stan Reas, K4UK, at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

***RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** or \$10/year for students (under 16 and family members are free) to **FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047**. Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!! We send out ONE renewal postcard when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a couple weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

***SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a brochure email Joe Pardue, w5os@arrl.net with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are on the FISTS Webpage.

***SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ England, he'll send them a DX application.

***PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year. Non-European FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. CASH ONLY. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

***APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info (check the individual award requirements) and your mailing info to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Do not submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated. Dennis handles ALL awards, do not send logs to England.

***VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY?** We NEED a CODE BUDDY Coordinator!! Please consider volunteering. In the mean time, send CBud applications to WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page.

***GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself, with your face about the size of a quarter, to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

***RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The KN is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp MI 48038 or at ikott@compuserve.com

***GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

***FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org> **Web page suggestions?** Contact Bill at KK4KF@LizardCop.com

***ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

***ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

***IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations.. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR: NANCY KOTT WZ8C

Net Information

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday and Thursday 9PM EST on 3.682

Slow RagChewing Group: Wednesday at 9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Controls needed to run the Century Net on Sunday afternoon on 14.058 MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 2000Z on 14.058 MHz and 7.058 MHz at 2300Z.

Sunday Slow Speed Chat: 21.158 MHz at 1700Z

Keep watch on the Novice subbands and frequencies ending in .x58 but PLEASE spread out. There have been over 9000 FISTS numbers issued. If we all try and chat on just these frequencies, all anyone will get is a lot of QRM. Please be courteous of nets and QSOs in progress and ask if the frequency is busy before calling CQ.

Courtesy At All Times!

Please note that FISTS subs rate hasn't gone up thru numerous postal hikes. Help us keep costs down by sending in your renewals early and letting Nancy, WZ8C know your address changes.

It costs FISTS 70 cents for each undelivered or forwarded Keynote due to address changes. This really adds up!

Hi FISTS! After processing all the paperwork generated by the Dayton Hamvention, I got to thinking about the old FISTS days when we only had 11 North American members and I called the North American portion of the Key Note the "North American Memo." It was just a memo then, one page or so; tacked on to the Key Note which was mailed to me from Geo, G3ZQS. In those days, not many people had email; thank goodness we had at least simple computers. Geo would send his KeyNote via postal mail and I would take it to an office supply place and make a couple dozen copies, put them in envelopes, address them and mail them out.

It was very exciting when the North American membership total reached two hundred. Then we could qualify for bulk rates! I reduced the subs from \$17.50 to \$15. The KeyNote was still being copied and stapled and addressed by hand, the NA Memo plus the KeyNote were only about six pages. I remember bringing the latest issue to Field Day one year and everyone help put stickers and stamps on to get it ready to mail.

As FISTS grew, so did the newsletter. The printer does the labeling now, thank goodness. Anyone who has had to do a mailing knows what I'm talking about when I say making labels and 'peeling and sticking' is a major chore. We also use a bulk permit imprint now to save the labor of hand applying postage stamps.

I used to get them from the printer in bundles and had to separate each bundle and put them into mailbags. I finally got smart and am having the printing place bag them for me. The newsletters fit into about 25 postal bags. I put labels on these bags and load into my vehicle and take them to post office, where I unload them into big baskets. It's an all day process, but a big improvement over doing the bagging by hand.

I don't think we'll have to raise the rates to the United States to cover the cost of this postal hike. You can help keep costs down by telling me your changes of address, and letting me know if there is an error on your label. The price for an address correction is now seventy cents.

We average about twenty five of these a month, much more when the "snowbirds" go North or South. Renewing on time or even a little early helps, too. That way we don't have to send out a renewal postcard to you.

Speaking of renewal postcards, please welcome our newest FISTS volunteer, Barbara Spencer, KK5QA. She will be sending out the renewal cards. We haven't sent any out since December, so thank you, Barbara!

We are in desperate need of a Code Buddy coordinator. This might be a good job for one of the Clubs with FISTS numbers. It's a big job, but once it gets organized, it should go pretty smoothly. The CBud coordinator has to be someone with a computer and access to the Internet and Email, and someone who enjoys working with people, and who has patience. If a club took it over, there would be several people to share the workload, maybe one person could take people who need someone for 20 meters, or 40 meters, etc...or people who are looking for a slower op to have a sked with, and people who are looking for high speed skeds - there are lots of scenarios.

I'm going to try to get it going after I get the paperwork back in my possession, but I don't have time to do it justice. If you or your club are interested in giving it a try, please contact me. My phone is 810 797 5388; email is nancy@tir.com, or postal mail at PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.

While doing all the renewals and processing the Newbies you see on the following page, and thinking about how FISTS has grown, and all the nice people we met in Dayton, I was reminded of how lucky I am to be so closely involved in our wonderful hobby and to know the joy of Morse code.

Sure, FISTS takes up the majority of my free time, I spend an average of 4 hours a day doing FISTS related things, mostly answer-

ing mail and phone calls, updating the membership files and putting the newsletter together. I'd like to take a minute to thank our volunteers, without whom FISTS would not run nearly as efficiently as it does. I know they put in countless hour, too. Their names, are listed on the How Do I page. If you happen to them on the air, be sure to tell them how much you appreciate their time and talents.

Did you know we have the Key Note available free on cassette tape for blind members? Roger, N8KV, reads the Key Note onto a master tape, then mails it to Ken W8ROG (who also does the photopages). W8ROG makes copies of the tapes and mails them to the blind members. These members mail the tapes back and we reuse them for the next month.

We had a bit of a mix-up this month. Geo sent his June KN to me via email in the beginning of June, but I didn't receive it. As the month went on, I held up taking the newsletter to the printer, thinking he would send it any day. I didn't want to nag him about it, because we all get bogged down...but when I got the July one a week ago, I asked what happened to June. He emailed a replacement copy -- but by then, it's the first week in July. So, I decided to make a combo issue out of this and put both his June and July issues in it.

Well, I guess I've rambled on enough for now. I thought you'd be interested in hearing a little bit about what goes on with getting the newsletter from Geo and me, to you.



Welcome to the New FISTS

| <u>FISTS #</u> | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>First</u> | <u>QTH</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> | <u>#</u> | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>QTH</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 9101 | AB7ST | BOB | UT | K3WWP | 9147 | VE4STU | STEW | MB | |
| 9102 | K2AK | SAM | FL | NB2T | 9148 | W0PTI | BOB | TN | WZ8C |
| 9103 | KC2IZM | RALPH | NY | | 9149 | K9KXP | EVERETT | IL | WZ8C |
| 9104 | W4WRE | DOUG | TN | WZ8C | 9150 | KL7IBT | JIM | AK | WZ8C |
| 9105 | WB9SWS | PAUL | IL | | 9151 | VE7NS | RON | BC | |
| 9106 | W7AFA | LEO | WA | WB2FXK | 9152 | NJ7F | BRIAN | WA | WZ8C |
| 9107 | W4HOZ | READ | MS | QST | 9153 | KD7OWN | BOB | WA | OnTheAir |
| 9108 | KC8RHB | DONALD | OH | | 9154 | W1TCJ | FRED | CT | OnTheAir |
| 9109 | W2FCA | FRANK | NY | | 9155 | KA6UMQ | PETE | CA | |
| 9110 | WB2YKY | TOM | NY | K2NPN | 9156 | KC9AYS | DOUG | IL | K3DEH |
| 9111 | AG4GX | GERRY | NC | | 9157 | WH6AMU | RYAN | HI | |
| 9112 | VA7VVV | DAVID | BC | WZ8C | 9158 | W7PFZ | PHIL | WA | |
| 9113 | N6TPG | LAWRENCE | CA | WZ8C | 9159 | WA6GSV | BOB | CA | |
| 9114 | W7YU | CHARLES | AZ | OnTheAir | 9160 | W3CE | AL | PA | |
| 9115 | KO6YG | DAN | CA | | 9161 | KK7XE | DENNIS | WA | A Ham |
| 9116 | AD4M | RICK | FL | | 9162 | WD5RS | RUSS | TX | |
| 9117 | K6KF | JUN | CA | | 9163 | KG4EQU | JOHN | VA | WZ8C |
| 9118 | KC8SES | TOM | MI | WWW | 9164 | K7CS | DON | CO | |
| 9119 | KC8NKA | RICH | MI | | 9165 | W5AI | JAMES | OK | Dayton |
| 9120 | W0SMY | RALPH | NE | WZ8C | 9166 | W1LO | WAREN | NH | Dayton |
| 9121 | KC5DSP | JB | TX | KR5C | 9167 | W1GYF | NICK | NC | Dayton |
| 9122 | KE5WY | JOHN | OK | | 9168 | VA3KV | JIM | ONT | Dayton |
| 9123 | VE8JCH | JOHN | NT | WA3WST | 9169 | K1FTA | CAROL | RI | W1WFX |
| 9124 | AA1PV | ALBERT | RI | | 9170 | AE8U | DAVE | OH | Dayton |
| 9125 | WA8KRL | RON | OH | | 9171 | KB3HZN | FLONET | PA | Dayton |
| 9126 | K6MMC | MIKE | CA | | 9172 | KB3HTY | RENARD | PA | Dayton |
| 9127 | K0EX | MARK | CO | | 9173 | W4DF | FRED | VA | Dayton |
| 9128 | KE7MH | MIKE | WA | | 9174 | K0FS | FRED | MO | Dayton |
| 9129 | K9KLR | NICK | IN | WB2FXK | 9175 | AB8LP | ART | OH | Dayton |
| 9130 | W8IPN | IVAN | MI | KB8ZYY | 9176 | AB8GQ | KENNETH | OH | Dayton |
| 9131 | KG6FZM | TOM | CA | | 9177 | AA0ZZ | CRAIG | MN | Dayton |
| 9132 | KC2CK | DON | NY | | 9178 | N1RUI | JIM | OH | Dayton |
| 9133 | N7DZD | J. T. | WA | OnTheAir | 9179 | KB8WFH | MATT | OH | Dayton |
| 9134 | K0MAX | MAX | MN | OnTheAir | 9180 | W1DFU | BERT | VT | Dayton |
| 9135 | WD4EPW | JIM | GA | | 9181 | K3MT | MICHAEL | VA | Dayton |
| 9136 | AA5BG | Richard | TX | | 9182 | WA2MZX | RAY | NY | |
| 9137 | K4RLC | BOB | NC | WZ8C | 9183 | K8MW | RICHARD | MI | W8DO |
| 9138 | W1HPH | BILL | RI | OnTheAir | 9184 | WB8HWF | JOE | OH | Dayton |
| 9139 | W2SR | BOB | NJ | | 9185 | KI3O | ROBERT | VA | Dayton |
| 9140 | NJ6A | JOHN | CA | | 9186 | W2HTI | ED | NC | KO4DI |
| 9141 | WA6NPC | BILL | CA | WA6CJK | 9187 | WA4OAB | BOB | FL | Dayton |
| 9142 | W0DKM | DAVE | NE | WZ8C | 9188 | KF4NI | RUBY | NC | Dayton |
| 9143 | W6KBJ | RICK | CA | K4PTU | 9189 | KB8DIE | JULIUS | OH | Dayton |
| 9144 | WR2H | BOB | NJ | | 9190 | K4RF | STEVE | GA | Dayton |
| 9145 | NF4G | JOYCE | TN | W4HZD | 9191 | KE8BU | ROBERT | OH | Dayton |
| 9146 | W6BEG | ROBERT | CA | 40 Meters | 9192 | W8OWN | GEORGE | MI | Dayton |
| | | | | | 9193 | WT4KY | MARK | KY | Dayton |

| # | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>OTH</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> | # | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>OTH</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> |
|------|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|------|-----------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 9194 | W4GD | JOHN | FL | Dayton | 9242 | W9AJR | CRAIG | IN | |
| 9195 | KD3GZ | DEREK | PA | WB2FXK | 9243 | N8BFD | DAVE | MI | WZ8C |
| 9196 | VE3GSS | GARY | Ont | Dayton | 9244 | W4ULL | MILTON | GA | |
| 9197 | K0QY | RICHARD | MO | Dayton | 9245 | W2CD | TOM | NY | N2WDV |
| 9198 | AB8JP | RANDY | WV | Dayton | 9246 | KB3HSD | FRANK | MD | |
| 9199 | K9ZTV | KENT | MO | N0SS | 9247 | W8KNZ | STEVE | OH | On the air |
| 9200 | K8FST | FairbornClub | OH | W8FAX | 9248 | KC0LND | BROOKS | MN | WB0CFF |
| 9201 | W8IVF | GARY | WV | Dayton | 9249 | N2OEE | TONY | SC | K3DC |
| 9202 | AA8GV | RICHARD | OH | Dayton | 9250 | N5FFF | BOB | LA | N5YFC |
| 9203 | WA5PAE | "PICK" | OH | Dayton | 9251 | W3TW | Red Stick | NY | WZ8C |
| 9204 | N8MRX | RICHARD | OH | Dayton | 9252 | VE7CCY | TOM | BC | |
| 9205 | KW8CX | LEO | OH | | 9253 | K6MGO | SCOTT | CA | WZ8C |
| 9206 | W0JMP | DAN | MN | | 9254 | W7SST | BILL | OR | |
| 9207 | KG6COX | MONTY | CA | WZ8C | 9255 | KF4FD | MIKE | FL | |
| 9208 | N5TJU | CLIFF | MA | | 9256 | W4AYK | TERRY | GA | |
| 9209 | WB7RBX | JIM | VA | | 9257 | K2VY | GENE | NJ | N2WFN |
| 9210 | KB2VXB | FRANK | NY | KG4NJT | 9258 | K9FK | DAN | IN | |
| 9211 | KD7PHM | MARK | WA | K7ZPE | 9259 | AD6WL | JOHN | CA | KE6OIO |
| 9212 | W8CNJ | ROGER | OH | | 9260 | KB1IHG | JIM | MA | WB9WZN |
| 9213 | KC8RXO | ANDY | OH | KB9USX | 9261 | N9XVL | ANDY | IN | KB9SSB |
| 9214 | AC5R | CHRIS | SC | | 9262 | NJ2BB | LARRY | NJ | AA2WN |
| 9215 | KD7JUQ | GARY | WA | K5HK | 9263 | K4CMC | Battleship | FL | |
| 9216 | KG6HOD | BOB | CA | | | | New Jersey | | |
| 9217 | WF9D | BOB | IL | WZ8C | 9264 | W7RVR | BRUCE | NV | KE3CR |
| 9218 | WA6DR | DARYL | CA | | 9265 | W1IDE | DENNIS | MA | |
| 9219 | K0KJS | MIKE | MN | K3PID | 9266 | N6HGK | JACK | AZ | |
| 9220 | W4NVC | BILL | SC | | 9267 | N0QOC | JERRY | KS | N4ZN |
| 9221 | KA9HRO | FRANK | IL | KC0JKD | 9268 | W3SOC | ERROL | PA | WB9WZN |
| 9222 | W1ALK | PETE | VT | | 9269 | W2CUA | BURL | FL | |
| 9223 | AC5PS | KEN | TX | | 9270 | W9KNI | GEORGE | CA | |
| 9224 | K0FL | TIM | KY | | 9271 | KM5I | BOB | TX | WB2FXK |
| 9225 | WJ4E | TOMMY | SC | WB2FXK | 9272 | K3LN | FRANK | PA | WB2FXK |
| 9226 | W4MOW | JERE | TN | K9HE | 9273 | N2CX | ELLEN | NJ | |
| 9227 | unknown | DAVID | MA | | 9274 | KG4LTB | JOE | VA | N8IK |
| 9228 | W3KLJ | BILL | PA | | 9275 | W3GR | Aubrianna | | K3NY |
| 9229 | W6ABZ | STEVE | CA | | | | Museum | MD | |
| 9230 | AC7SY | ROBERT | OR | | 9276 | W5DBF | CLEM | TX | |
| 9231 | KB2RL | ROGER | NY | KB2HKH | 9277 | NJ8V | DEWEY | OH | K4YKI |
| 9232 | K2DN | FRED | NY | KB2HKH | 9278 | N7IGK | DON | WA | |
| 9233 | KC9BRR | RUSS | IN | | 9279 | KB6AED | CHARLES | CA | WZ8C |
| 9234 | N2TKX | STEPHEN | NY | W2SWN | 9280 | KD5QAM | DOUG | MS | KG4FXG |
| 9235 | NQ4T | JIM | NC | AA4DN | 9281 | W4CCU | DAVID | FL | N4ZMP |
| 9236 | N7MQ | MARK | OR | N7QU | 9282 | N3PXF | ERNIE | KS | |
| 9237 | KA8WOG | FLOYD | MI | W5OS | 9283 | N0MRR | RUSS | MN | |
| 9238 | K8MMO | DAVID | TX | | 9284 | WA9MZZ | DAVID | MN | W5OS |
| 9239 | K1USN | USS Salem | MA | K1QV | 9285 | AA0BP | JOHN | MO | N9WAT |
| 9240 | KC2JHP | RADIO | NY | AA0YY | 9286 | K3CKT | JIM | MD | KE4COH |
| 9241 | N4PLK | TIM | VA | | 9287 | N2ARQ | RON | NJ | |

| # | Callsign | Name | QTH | Sponsor |
|------|----------|-------|-----|----------|
| 9288 | AB8KS | Lloyd | WV | |
| 9289 | KK6DP | Don | CA | |
| 9290 | WY7W | TOM | AZ | |
| 9291 | K4FUM | JERE | GA | |
| 9292 | KB1AF | WENDY | FL | |
| 9293 | KC8SFJ | KEVIN | MI | |
| 9294 | KG6ZR | LEN | VA | |
| 9295 | VE7GDM | DOUG | BC | Magazome |
| 9296 | N4FI | DAN | VA | WA9PWP |
| 9297 | | | | |

Changes

AB5UA, #4450, changed to N5UW
 AB9EM, # 8869, changed to WV2JC
 KA3POY, # 8736, changed to N5IIT
 KB8YZA, # 5095, changed to AA8MA
 KB9LGJ # 4130, changed to AE6GL
 KB9MRD, # 8086, changed to AB9CO
 KC2GZV, #8031, changed to N2HTA
 KD2IX, #3335, changed to W2IX
 KS4YL, # 7236, changed to WY0MN
 N9AVG., # 6641, changed to KE9V
 W4PJI, #8462, changed to W1RG
 WA4BDZ, # 7844, changed to K4AAF

WA9S, # 1711, name is Ken, not Charles

Financial Statement for 2002

Income:

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Member supplies | 654.00 |
| Membership Dues | 32611.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Advertising | 1163.00 |
| Bank Charges | 28.00 |
| Dayton supplies | 320.00 |
| Certificate related expenses | 1673.03 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Postal permits/box rental | 608.86 |
|---------------------------|--------|

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| CASS certification | 395.85 |
| Postage non-certif | 8010.94 |
| Printing | 13836.34 |
| Bookkeeping | 450.00 |
| QSL Bureau | 1000.00 |
| Member supplies | 657.20 |
| Phone/Internet | 600.00 |
| Bottom Line | +\$4521.78 |

SILENT KEYS

SILENT KEY N2YKH BILL 1577.
 His wife wrote "Bill became a Silent Key at home, while under hospice care. Thank you and FISTS for enabling him to many happy years of hamming."

SILENT KEY Jack KRXC, 6592
 Jack Elvis K2RXC passed away 2-23-02 after a long illness.

SILENT KEY Joe VE7BPN 5205
 Joseph Micheal Fertich was born in Quantach, Saskatchewan on December 31th 1922. Silent Key on May 1 2002., at Trail British Columbia.

Joe, recieved his Morse code training with the Royal Canadian Air Force, and obtained his 25 wpm proficiency Certificate on April 15th 1943, and his Amateur Radio Certificate and 10 wpm morse code.

On Feb,4 1966 Joe obtained his 15 wpm Code certification.

He joined FISTS in July of 1998 and was given his Membership No: 5205, and then he proceded to work enough FISTS to recieve his CC 669 and Platinum 154.

Joe was a very avid CW'er and always had time to show people his skills.

He also was a Big part of his local Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Club. He will be missed and all who had the pleasure of working Joe (VE7BPN) worked a true FRIEND.. R

73's dear friend..... Wayne ve7rgx Fists 5065

Silent Key Ralph, W7ZX, 8179
 Ralph's wife, Jane, informed me that Ralph was killed in an automobile accident.

Silent Key, Bob, W2LYH, #2758
 Bob became a Silent Key on May 10, 2002 at the age of 81.

Silent Key, Larry, W8ISS, # 1777
 Larry became a Silent Key on March 10, 2002

Since the Franklin Club took over the operation of the Bureau in November of 1997 we have handled a total of 215,721 cards. So far for the Year 2002 we have handled 27,035 cards

We handled 3,834 cards during May. Big batches of cards came from KA9S - 176 cards, UA6JD - 82 cards, WB7RHT - 70 cards and WB0PYF - 58 cards.

We received 132 cards for Canadian members and 69 cards for DX members on this side of the Atlantic during the month. We received 503 cards for DX members on the other side of the Atlantic. And, 84 cards for the VK/ZL members during the month.

We received 411 cards from Chuck Spence from DX members. We sent 490 cards to him for DX members and have 105 more on hand. We received 71 cards from Nigel Hardy from VK/ZL members. We sent 62 cards to him for ZL/VK members and have 22 more on hand.
June Report

Stan was on an "Alaska Adventure" from June 19 through July 2. When he returned home there were two large U.S. Postal boxes of mail waiting for him. In the boxes he found 1,421 QSL cards which brought the total to 3,412 cards for the month of June.

We received 95 cards for Canadian members and 61 cards for DX members on this side of the Atlantic during the month. We received 424 cards for DX members on the other side of the Atlantic. And, 68 cards for the VK/ZL members during the month.

We received 442 cards from Chuck Spence from DX members. We sent 271 cards to him for DX members and have 258 more on hand. We received 84 cards from Nigel Hardy from VK/ZL members. We sent 53 cards to him for ZL/VK members and have 37 more on hand.

The Art and Skill of Telegraphy

The first printing of the latest revised edition sold out in Dayton, and we have reordered and received a second printing. We have about 150 copies left and probably will NOT reorder until the next revision is ready, so order now! We don't expect the next revision for about a year. Fred NY2V and Mike N9BOR put a lot of work into this book, thanks guys! And of course, thank you to Bill Pierpont for compiling all this excellent information into one invaluable resource. It's a very informative and inspiring book - a must have for anyone who is learning the code or wants to improve, or just get a better understanding of the history.

Due to the postal changes, we are now shipping the book via Media Mail. The total cost is \$13.23. Send the check, payable to FISTS to Supply Manager WO8E 44609 N Bunker Hill Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

The FISTS version is beautiful bookbound book-bound, not spiral-bound, paperback, 8 1/2 x 11.

Here are some comments from people who have read the book:

"I received "The Art and Skill . . . " book today. Appreciate the fast response. Had a chance to skim through it. Looking forward to slowly digesting and applying the information. My goal is to significantly increase my skills and speed. This book should help I had a copy of an earlier version but I really appreciate this improved format. Thanks for all the effort that FISTS puts forth in so many ways. Keep up the good work. 73 Fred Kelley, W1YRW FISTS #5281"

"The book just arrived yesterday and it looks to be a great read! 73 Steve Banks K0PQ "

"I just wanted to let you know the book came in yesterday. Very well done, and certainly worth the wait. I will enjoy reading it. Thanks for making this book available to FISTS members. I hope to hear members on the air. I hang round 7.058 in the evenings. Bill Johnson, WB5RYB"

If you are looking for either of these for your cojputer, Jim W8FDV sends along this URL:
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~scp93ch/morse/>

FISTS Presentation a HIT!

Not being used to public speaking, Marty W2SWN, was understandably a little nervous about giving a FISTS presentation at a club meeting. Imagine his surprise when it went well and a good time was had by all! I hope Marty's experience inspires YOU to give a FISTS presentation to your local club. About 4 -6 weeks before you're ready, contact Joe Spencer (info on the How Do I...page) and he'll set you up with everything you need, including our E-Z presentation kit.

Marty writes: "Nancy - Well, the presentation went off pretty good. I got a little nervous in the beginning and made a goof or two. So I told the group that was a little nervous and to bear with me—took a swig of coffee and continued. I got in the swing of things and rattled on fer the better part of an hour. The club said they enjoyed it very much.

"This morning I fired up the 'puter to write this note to you and found a dozen E-mails waiting. Some were kudozs and a couple of requests for demos at there home clubs. There, see what you guys got me into, maybe, just maybe I've got fists a few new FISTS" *Thanks, Marty!*

High Speed Tapes?

I've been looking for some high speed tapes in order to improve my CW speed, but have had no success in finding where to buy them. I would like to get a couple of tapes for 50, 60 and 70 wpm. Could anyone please recommend a source for such tapes. 73, Ernie Hiser, W5NVK

I don't have a source for high speed tapes, but I recommend the program Rufz to those who have a computer and want a good CW workout! It's free and there are several download sites on the internet - do a web search on "rufz".

Just wanted to say that it was very nice to talk with those of you I got to meet in Dayton. A friend and I had a really nice time at the QRP get together on Friday night, combined with the Fist social event also.

The QRP club did a bang-up BBQ and those who missed it, really missed some great eats. I am not personally much of a QRP op, but I was certainly impressed with the really fine craftsmanship that was displayed by many builders in the contest and display events. Sure glad someone can see that tiny stuff. VERY impressive skill and care went into the construction of the devices and rigs that were shown.

I was also most impressed by the enthusiasm of the QRP group as a whole. They were all very nice and answered any questions that anyone had. They are a very dedicated group of hams and it was great to see ops who were really into HAM RADIO, and not plotting or politicking for a change. (a common problem we have here in Dayton)

I would really encourage FISTS members to try and make it to the social event next year. It's a great time to put a face with that call sign you worked. You will usually be surprised when you meet folks. Jess, AI9L told me I was far less good looking than he ever imagined. The conversations went from everything ham radio. ARRL, FISTS, DX, Keys, CW, etc. were all heard or overheard. Great time to make new friends and visit with old ones. AND for an added treat, if you go by the FISTS booth they will put you to work.....great fun.....73 AI/W8FAX/2192

We'll have to do some better advance planning next year for the get-together. I didn't get confirmation for our booth until a couple weeks before the Hamvention and it was a last minute scramble to put anything together. Thanks to the QRPers for letting us "crash" their Vendors Night. Al's right, it was a terrific evening - it will be even better next year when we get the communication squared away!

QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP # 51

This month I'm going to write about something I've not discussed before in this column. What the QRO operator can do to help out the QRPer. Please continue on even if you are a QRPer as the things I say apply in a way to you as well.

Some operators run 100 watts, 250 watts, or even 1,000 watts simply because they like to push everyone else around on the bands with their powerful signals. Fortunately these operators are only a very tiny minority, and most of them never operate CW. So I'm not going to say anything more about them.

I am going to talk about those who run more than the QRP level of 5 watts in their everyday operating. Perhaps something I say in this column may ring a bell with them making them realize what they are doing to hinder the QRPer in his efforts. Hopefully if that happens, they will then correct the bad habit.

While I personally operate all portions of the CW segments of all 9 HF bands (or 8 HF and 1 MF band if you want to be technically correct and list 160M as a MF band), many QRPers hang out around certain frequencies on the bands. If space permits, perhaps I'll list these QRP frequencies at the end of the column.

What I'm leading up to is that if you run QRO and operate near these QRP frequencies, please listen a little more carefully before and after you check the frequency with your QRL? There may be a very weak QRP QSO going on that certainly won't cause you any problems, but your QRO signal will probably hinder the QRP stations very much. If you do hear a very weak signal, please QSY to another frequency.

Should you be engaged in a QRO QSO and hear a very weak QRL? on frequency, please do respond to it. It's probably a QRPer who can't hear the station you're working, and if you don't let him know the frequency is in use, he will likely go ahead and call CQ. That won't bother you at all, but should he get a QSO started, you may wipe out that QSO when it's your turn to transmit in your QSO. This is especially true on bands where there is a distinct skip zone that prevents certain pairs of stations from hearing

each other.

If you call CQ and a very weak station answers, please make the effort to complete the QSO. It's probably a QRPer, and working you may be important to him. Now there are times when you may know a station is there, but you just can't copy him. That has happened to me many times over the years, especially since I have a bad local noise situation here. If that's the case, don't just ignore the answer, but say something about the difficulty you are having copying him, perhaps explaining your local noise level is very high at the time. I generally try for at least a few minutes to make a go of the QSO, trying the various filter combinations on my receiver, using different receiving antennas, etc. Then and only then do I give up on the QSO, and feel bad that I couldn't make a go of it.

Always give honest signal reports in casual QSO's. Now in contests I know it's the norm to give out 599 to everyone even if you can barely copy them. In a rag chew type QSO it just doesn't make any sense to give a 599 report, then ask for the station to repeat everything. We QRPers are not offended when we get the honest 229, 339, etc. reports. If I do get a 339, I'll know that I should make an effort to repeat things in the course of the QSO that may be difficult to understand like uncommon words, numbers, etc.

Finally, try to tune a bit away from zero beat after a CQ. Some of the QRP transmitters are still rock bound (crystal controlled) like in the old days of ham radio, and they may not be able to exactly zero beat you.

I said I'd mention the most common QRP frequencies so here they are: 3560, 7040, 14060, 21060, 28060. These are pretty much written in stone and have been used for many years. 1810, 10106, 10116, 18096, and 24906 are also used on the Top band and WARC bands. These are not as well established as those on the 5 big bands.

That's about all the room I have for now. Till next month, good QRPing (and QROing, too). Visit me at www.alltel.net/~johnshan/ or www.qsl.net/k3wwp/ Email to johnshan@alltel.net Regular mail to John H. Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. 73 -30-

FISTS

By

Dennis

A month or so ago two logs were received for the 15th Anniversary Award #2 (300). The first one received was from Mike, K8XF, and the second one received was from Jim, K9JXW. Congratulations to you both . . . award plaques will be sent out later in the year for the #2 award. As everyone can see, . . . this #2 (300) award is very obtainable.

A word about award logs.

As many of you know, I try my very best to get the FISTS awards out to you in a very short time frame. Sometimes awards are sent out the same day they are received, but the time is determined by how well organized your log is.

When submitting a log for a FISTS award, please DO NOT send me copies of your log pages for the last 2 years and expect me to look through your log for FISTS contacts even if you highlight them. I simply do not have the time to do that, and from now on I will return the log to you as REJECTED.

Copy all FISTS related log information and make sure it includes; Call, FISTS number, points (if needed), Frequency, Date, QTH, CC number (if needed). If you are submitting a hand written log DO NOT worry about sorting your log. Once a paper log has been checked I do not keep it as they take up too much space. Therefore, when you apply for another award be sure to send the entire log for that award. Please let me know if you want your paper log returned to you and I will mail it with your award certificate.

Please . . . If you are printing your log from a computer sort your log by FISTS number for Century awards.

Sort your log by CC number for Platinum awards.

Logs sorted by Call, Date, or Band take longer to dupe check and will hold up the issuing of your award in a timely manner. Above all, check

AWARDS

K6DF

your award log for duplicate numbers.

You may apply for an award via e-mail by attaching your award log in one of the following formats: Excel, Word, or a plain text file. Please DO NOT send any formatted files. By this I mean, do not highlight text or use color text, borders, tables, etc. The Awards e-mail Address is: FISTS AWARDS @attbi.com Feel free to send questions about awards to this address as well.

When applying for the "Century" awards, (Basic Century, Silver, Gold and Diamond) please include a point column in your log as these awards run on a point system. 1 point for contacts in your own country, 2 points for DX contact, and 3 points for working a FISTS affiliated club station.

The Platinum awards, (Platinum, Platinum 250, and Platinum 500) DO NOT run on the point system. Platinum awards go by the number of Century Club (CC) numbers collected via on the air QSO's with FISTS member stations. A CC number may only be used once for Platinum awards. Example: You earn your Platinum award (100 different CC numbers), you then may add to that award total, 150 more "different" CC numbers to obtain your Platinum 250 award. Same applies for the Platinum 500 award, simply add 250 more "different" CC numbers to your 250 award.

AWARDS ISSUED - April 26th to June 30, 2002
Basic Century (CC)

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| AA8IV | KO4DI | W8LQ |
| G3NYY | M0AVN | WA2DKG |
| G4ABE | M0BPT | WA2YMX |
| G4TTF | M0DAW | WA8KRL |
| K3DC | N4TN | WB2TQC |
| K5OGX | N4ZN | WB9WZN |
| K9UQN | NY2PO | |
| KA3DDQ | VE3ABT | |
| KC8CPT | VE6VIA | |
| KG4PLA | W4MJT | |
| KI0ET | W5DW | |
| KM5WN | W6GA | |

Silver Century

G3NYY
K1BMV
K8MIA
KA9F
KB3GKY
LW1HPT
M0DAW
N7YY
VA2MMJ
VE2ARZ
W6YHM
ZL2BLQ

Gold Century

G4AQZ
K1BMV
KD5GRF
VA2MMJ

Diamond Century

KC0M
W1GUE
WF6W

1 X QRP Award

AA8IV
K5OGX

Platinum Award

GSWL2
K0CPX
K1BMV
K3OKR
KB3GKY
KE5HL
LW1HPT
N7YY
NZ7C
VE2ARZ
W5DW
WB7RHT
WB9WZN

Platinum 250 Award

KD5GRF
N7NU
W7DO
WA2VQV

Worked All States Award

KA9S
W7DO
WA2YMX
WA9PWP
WB6QQR

Rag Chewers' Club

K3OKR

15th Ann 150 Award

GM3KHH
K2SB
K4UK
K7LFY
K7ZVY
K8XF
K9JXW
W1GUE
W8III
WA3GNW
WB0PYF

15th Ann 300 Award

K7LFY
K8XF
K9JXW

The Benefits of Properly Using The Calling Frequencies

No doubt, plenty of you are familiar with the FISTS calling frequencies on the various Amateur Bands. They are a great place to meet other FISTS members to chat with, and makes gaining points for the awards an easier task. Just about any time of the day, or night, there are several FISTS either calling for, or waiting to engage in a QSO with other CW ops. So, how can you make the best use of the calling frequencies for the better of yourself, and others?

To begin with, lets look at the purpose behind a calling frequency. To begin with, it's a mutually agreed on place for operators of a similar interest to meet. If you are aware of the calling frequencies, then you already have that benefit mastered.

Secondly, a calling frequency is a piece of the spectrum that the users agree to keep freed up and quiet to listen for other stations, particularly weak ones that wouldn't otherwise be heard under poor band conditions. What can you do to make use of this benefit? After initiating contact, move off to a frequency that you and the other station agree on that is available and clear for both of you. I usually check on a alternate frequency that I always use for QSO's, and keep it stored in my other VFO for quick recall.

I check my alternate frequency first in that VFO, to see if it's clear... then switch to my other VFO, in which I have the FISTS calling frequency stored. I make a call, respond to any ham that anseres, and request that they QSY to the frequency I already have stored in my other VFO. I recheck that frequency after arriving, and all being still clear, I carry on with the contact.

What does this do for you, and your fellow hams (particularlly other FISTS)? Well, it makes you a more considerate, and respected operator. It keeps others from having to wait for you to finish your QSO before they can make a call. It sets a good example for new hams (and



some older ones, I'm sure). It frees up the calling frequency for your fellow FISTS operators to establish contacts, instead of hunting for them all over the band, maybe with a rare one that they have been looking for that can't be heard well at their QTH due to poor propagation. It spreads us out more, so we're not bumping each others bandpass, and stumbling over each other. And it allows you to make use of a frequency that you commonly use, and other hams that you already know look for you on. Hey, maybe you can use one of the novice frequencies. You know we all are slightly upset about possibly losing some of our spectrum to the SSB crowd. Making use of that portion of the band is ammo in our behalf as to why we should be allowed to keep it.

And last, but not least. It spreads us out over more of the band. Again, helping us to retain spectrum. It makes us more visible to other hams, making them wonder "what is FISTS?" Maybe you can help to recruit a few new FISTS members.... they'll thank you for it. (It's happened to me) Wouldn't you like more new members out there? Sure would strengthen the CW ideal, and make racking those CC points up easier.

Remember, like the inside cover of your Keynote says, "COURTESY AT ALL TIMES", and page 11, paragraph 2 in the Keynote reference issue #1 "That's why it's called a calling frequency, not a QSO frequency."

I have forgotten at times, as I'm sure we all have. But let's all do our part to make CW a pleasurable aspect of the hobby. We are referred to as out of date old dinosaurs by the SSBers. So, if we are representative of the "OLD SCHOOL"... let's act like it. And as a FISTS member, you are also representative of a fine CW organization. We are supposed to be the Best of the Best. Every time you get on the air, you are in a way, speaking for us all. And above all, HAVE FUN.... properly using calling frequencies just makes it easier. 73 all... CU on the bands. Mike/N4ZN/FISTS# 7306

The Great Mysteries of Life as a Ham

There are many great philosophical questions that people have tried vainly through the years to answer. Here is my version of the ones that seem to haunt the amateur community.

Why is it that you spent 3 weeks getting ready for Field Day and still ran yourself ragged getting every thing together 1 hour before start time?
Why is it that no matter what frequency you choose for your sked that there are no less than 3 Qso's of at least 1 hour duration going on within 5 khz of it?

Why is it that you have the nagging suspicion that the old piece of junk you spent ten years fixing, cursing, and holding together with sweat and large globs of solder actually sounded better on the air than the shiny new technological marvel you just plopped down three grand for?
Why is it that no matter how carefully you measure that you have to raise and lower your antenna three or four times to get it right?

Why is it that you finally run across a DX station that will put you over the top for your DXCC and wait patiently for the pile-up to thin out, then just as the band begins to fade out, his last contact is with some primma donna who ties him up with a long-winded tale of how he worked him last year and what a wonderful signal he has, and on and on until the band opening is completely gone?

Why is it that the day of the big contest, which by the way you are sure you are going to win this year, your spouse reminds you that this is the weekend of the wonderful trip she had planned to Wally World with her, the kids, and you?

And finally, after careful packing and planning for your great Qrp hiking adventure to the top of Mount Nosebleed, you arrive at the crest, greeted by a magnificent view of the entire state, only to discover that you and your wife own identical tote bags, one of which is full of cosmetic items, and one which contains your nifty lightweight battery pack, now guess which one you packed up a 10 mile trail?

by Marty, WD4AXJ professional mangler of morse code

Arnie sent this in to the web site www.qrz.com, and gave us permission to run it in the Keynote. Thanks for helping to inspire non-CW'ers to reconsider, Arnie!

Forty Years is a Long Time

I was first licensed in the early 1960's as a novice in Tucson, Arizona. I barely squeaked by the 5 wpm code test and the written test, but I got my license and I was on the air.

CW didn't appeal to me, I had a few contacts around the states, even one with "Communist" Russia and taking into account my allowance money as a high schooler, my equipment was a simple Multi-Elmac transmitter and a Hallicrafters SX-23. The antenna was a very droopy dipole.

I operated from my bedroom during breaks in my homework and getting the evil eye from my parents who wanted to know what weird pastime I was now into. Why wasn't I smoking and hanging out at bars like the other kids?

The lure of talking to some one on two meters was much more interesting than pounding a straight key and trying to understand what someone was saying when I heard the string of dits and dashes from my huge Hallicrafters speaker.

We had a great time on two meters, as several of us were on every night with our Heathkit Twoers and our collinear arrays pointed at each other and pointed at the Catalina Mountains so we could experience mountain bounce.

We even put the Twoers in our cars and drove all over town chasing each other while we were talking on two meters and while we were sitting in Johnnie's Drive In checking out the girls in the adjoining cars. We were cool. This was much more fun than morse code.

Time passed way too quickly and nearly 40 years later, after working and building a successful business, I have decided to get back into ham radio.

Eighteen years ago when my wife and I were

looking for a new home, I picked our present home, knowing that I would eventually become active in ham radio. It is in the middle of town and on a nice ridge over looking the ocean.

I joined the local DX club and within a matter of minutes became very intimidated with most of the members talking about all the CW they were working. One fellow even said that he put his microphone away and can't find it!!

So, just like a couple of kids, N6DDF and I got on the air every evening, "pounding the brass." We are only about four miles apart and five watts on 15 meters is not a problem. Of course we reviewed each transmission and reception via two meters. Our wives thought we were nuts.

After about a month of this I mustered enough nerve to go big time, answering an evening CQ on 40 meters. W6SBE came back; chills were running up and down my back. Here I was, giddy as a teenager, with my first CW contact in 40 years and poor Dan was my first victim.

It has been a struggle, but as one of my early contacts recommended, I try to make at least one CW contact.

CW has taken on an interesting lure, it is mystical. And there is another reason I have become a brass pounder...It is good for your mind. CW forces me to use my brain and makes me think. At this age, that's a good thing.

There is a camaraderie among operators totally unlike sideband operators. In my past week of contacts, everyone has been very kind and very understanding, even when I send my usual QRS and explain that I am new to CW.

So the title of my article is "Forty Years is a Long Time," but could also be entitled "A Public Apology" for those fine operators I work. Bear with me, I will become as talented (and as fast) as each of you.

After forty years, I now have the desire.
Arnie, W7BIA FISTS 8755

Part II

QRZ published my article entitled "Forty Years is a Long Time," chronicling how, for the past 40 years, I never used, let alone thought of CW, and have now discovered its virtues and benefits.

After nearly 40 postings to my article and as many personal messages, I am compelled to write a follow-up article. The temper of those messages are akin to Oprah's personal message: "You go, Arnie," and "we're behind you 100 percent."

I've returned to tell you that I'm hooked on CW!

Sure there is the thrill of working DX, calling that station on the other side of the globe and hearing your call letters spoken by someone of a different accent. And sure, there is the thrill of hearing a massive pile-up, calling that station with 100 watts and have your call answered.

But this does not prepare you for the thrill of sending out a CQ on 20 meters CW in the late evening and not knowing who will answer.

The thrill of sending that CQ with only 20 watts or less, followed by your call letters, waiting a short time and hearing your call letters in Morse Code coming back to you is an experience that doesn't get any better, especially when you don't know where it is coming from, 200 miles away or the other side of the world.

Those readers thinking of, getting back into CW after a hiatus, should ponder no more. As the athletic shoe manufacturer continues to say, "Just Do It!" After 40 years, I just did it!!

Except for the occasional DX and the skeds with friends, I have put away my microphones and purchased a new paddle that makes all the difference in the world. No longer practicing on the air every evening with N6DDF just a few miles away, we now venture onto the airways seeking our prey with a vengeance.

The other hams that I have met on CW are fantastic and most accommodating. You'd be surprised at the number of contacts that tell me that

they have just gotten back into CW and are sending slower than I am!

For all those hams that have QRS'd when I have asked, I am proud to send slower in hopes that one more ham will embrace CW as have I.

The thrill I have experienced, as a new CW operator, when my call is answered by a JA3 or last night when I heard my call letters coming back followed by the call of an OK1, is an incredible experience.

Those operators needing some code practice, just dial up the ARRL code practice on your radios and listen. The link for their on-the-air schedule is <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>. The option is also available to listen to the code practice from their web site or download some of the files for later practice. Look at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html> for additional information.

You can also purchase code practice tapes and listen to them as you drive down the crowded freeways. Be sure and find the tapes where the letters are sent at a high speed and there are long spaces between those letters, known as the "farnsworth" method. As time goes by, you will be able to shorten those spaces and "voilà," your speed quickly improves.

Another method is to listen to the ARRL code practice and to other stations and simply be aware of the letters and begin to form some of the words without writing them down. You will be very surprised how much you are copying in your head.

These are by no means failsafe or guaranteed methods for learning or improving on the code, but I am here to tell you that all these methods have worked for me and in a short matter of time.

Come on, lay down those microphones and get out the paddles and straight keys. All you need is the will and if you have read this far, you are just about there!! I'll see you on the lower ends of the bands!!
Arnie W7BIA

Odds and Ends

Al, W8FAX, got super service from Rusprint when he ordered new cards for club call K8FST. He finalized the order on an Thursday and received the cards on Monday!

The Klez virus is driving me crazy. I get at least 10 attempts per day in my email in-box. Thank goodness for virus detectors. If you send me (or anyone, really) an attachment via email PLEASE send a line or two with it, saying it's really from you, there is a legit attachment and a description of what it is. Because of the risk of catching a virus I do not open attachments unless I know what the attachment is and sometimes I don't even open an email if it is from an address I don't recognize and there is no title. I may have deleted a legit email or two this way, and I am sorry, but please take the time to put a title in the Title Bar and a line or two of text when sending an attachment. Thanks!

There is a new feature on our web page. It's a callsign/FISTS number look up search. WM7D is providing this service for us. If you look up a FISTS number and it says "unknown" that means I don't have a callsign for that number on file. It's either an SWL or they never informed me of their callsign. Hope you find this feature useful.

From Chuck KA8OFP: "On page 24 of Issue 10, 2001 of the KeyNote, there were requirements for membership for a 9ACWE club. After reading the requirements, that club seems to be very snooty. Shucks, I'll talk to anybody anytime, no matter how fast or slow they send code. I'll just stay with the FISTS Club. They are more down to earth and very friendly."

"Really enjoy the magazine, this QRP/CW stuff is pretty addictive especially with the little DSW-20 I built. Best contact with it was to Argentina from Phoenix with 8 AA batteries (in the SQRPIons FYBO contest).

CW is very relaxing, even though I'm only good up to about 18WPM. Amazing how the signal can still be copied even if it's just above the noise floor. Thanks again for the fine magazine, 72/73, Mike, N4VBV"

"I can understand the frustration of Cal, AA8VM. (mentioned in a previous issue) I have called many nights on 80M low end and in N/T portion and gotten no replies. But, every chance I get I will be on the air banging out CQ FISTS looking for a call. One of the reasons I will keep calling is an incredible surprise reply to my CQ FISTS one evening.

I got a reply from EA8/DF2PD, Fred on Tenerife Island. He apologized for not being a FISTS member but wanted to respond to my strong signal. We had a very nice chat. It was special for me, even though Fred is not a club member.

He was my first outside North America DX contact on CW on 80M. That might be nothing to some members, but I was flying high for a couple days just on that one contact. I work the bands when I can and hope to contact more members on the "FUN MODE". VY 73 de Karl, KB1DSB, FISTS # 6938"

"I had a nice chat with Felix, F3VT, and he said CW was the only mode he could use. He could read and write English but had trouble speaking and understanding spoken English. An advantage for CW that seemed new to me. 73 Harry #7907 KB9WWU"

"The KeyNote continues to be a fine publication; thanks to you for the great work. Granddaughter is coming up to 18 months of age and has natural rhythm; when she hears music she often dances. I think she will be fine on CW! Murray #3423"

"I was thinking maybe I wouldn't renew my subscription this year. But then, I looked over the Keynote a few times and decided that I can't do without it! Steven KG4BBV"

Thanks to Pen KJ7KL for getting a nice article about FISTS into his local club newsletter, TheYavapai Signal in Prescott, AZ.

If you're going to be able to look back on something and laugh about it, you might as well laugh about it now.

Greetings!. I take issue, to some degree at least, with the motto "Accuracy Transcends Speed." When handling third party traffic, absolutely, but when engaged in just plain every day enjoyable rag chewing, what's a few mistakes among friends?

Wouldn't you really rather copy a smooth 25 WPM with an occasional mistake thrown in for pelon, than a solid 5 WPM? 5 WPM to me means that I have to write it all down, and the size of my note pad doesn't permit that. A faster speed allows you to copy while drinking coffee, clearing the desk, petting your cat, cutting your toenails, or whatever.

The number one irritant to this operator is people who send punctuation. Nothing spells "LID" as loud as punctuation. I wonder if those operators when engaged in an eyeball QSO say "Good Morning period my name is Joe comma W5XXX period my home QTH is Podunk comma Arkansas period? That is the way they sound on CW. Abbreviations I can take or leave. I use them extensively because they sped things up, but it doesn't bother me if the other operator want to give me a spelling lesson.

In spite of punctuated 5 WPM with mistakes, the No-Coders don't know what they are missing!

73 Bert K5KWD, #4601

I think "accuracy transcends speed" is trying to remind us that we shouldn't send faster than we can form the characters - not legit typo's. People set their keyers and to a lesser extent, bugs to a higher speed than they can control and end up making h's out of e's and j's out of a's! -WZ8C

Along those lines... continue reading, pse...

Ban The Keyer de AG2R

There was a time in this Ole CW ops life when he was in the Navy. When I signed up, I wanted to be an Electricians Mate, just like my father. I also figured that I'd have something to rely upon when they finally let me out. As things go with Uncle Sam, they made me a Radioman. I guess in the Navy's mind, that was close enough. So, what did I get from my four year stint with the USN?? I knew how to swab a deck

and I know Morse code, neither of which made me a plug nickel.

They made us use the straight key. We did have a bug but we were not allowed to use it for whatever reason, I don't know. When I graduated back into civilian life I went back to work at a pharmaceutical firm driving a Hilo and making Vitamin A. While there, I met a Ham who told me that I could use Morse code for things other than banging on top of garbage cans or making funny noises on the air hose that sounded like Cuban CW. That seemed to be my only CW outlet. And so it went. I got a Ham License. Paraded around the bands. Naturally, I worked CW almost exclusively. Naturally, I used a straight key definitely exclusively. The bug just didn't feel comfortable, nohow. Then, one fateful day, I borrowed my friend AJ2H's Ultramatic, TenTec Keyer and fell in love.

Now this is good....for me. But other people seem to think that the keyer is the only way to send CW. Wouldn't know how to use a straight key from a mouse trap. They get on the air and all you hear are mistakes. Dits and Dahs all over the place. Did you ever hear a dude send "BT" or a "6" with an extra dit in there?? I mean some cats can't even send their own callsigns without making mistakes. And when they make mistakes, they don't correct them. Just sort of, blunder on and leave it to you to figure out what the heck they are trying to say. It's no wonder half the NTS traffic that comes through this station has errors in names, addresses or phone numbers. You have to check the calls against a data base. Look up phone numbers in the book before you dial so you don't deliver a message to Uncle Ralphie when it's for Uncle Zeke. I keep a record of names and addresses of folks who receive traffic more than the "Happy Birthday" once a year. ALL THIS BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN WHAT I AM RECEIVING. As Manager of the New Jersey CW Section Net (NJN), I want my people to be the best they can be. BUT THEY AIN'T. That's why I say, "BAN THE KEYSER!!!!!!" "Throw the dumb thing out.if you can't handle it, dump it. Be honest. Give yourself a critical looksee. I'll wager that

any straight key operator, like WA2CUW on NJN, won't make "a piddly" of the mistakes the electronic keyer ops make. Why??? BECAUSE YOU TRY TO SEND TOO DARN FAST Dagnabbit! Fast is nice. But fast with errors ain't nice. It's slow. It's ugly. Clean CW is an art that must be worked at and practiced. You need to be concentrated on it in order to do it well. Don't just throw it out there in all it's messy, error-ridden jabber for all to try to decipher. Have some pride. I once challenged anyone to be NCS of NJN without making one error. ...Not one single error!!! If you say "it can't be done" then switch to SSB.

Who luvs ya baby...Me...And I want you to be the best you can be. So, tighten up. Let's get ship shape. "Ten-four???" (dats a joke, son)
Cheers 'n' 73 de AG2R NJN NM.

Calling Speed = Answering Speed

This was buried WAY deep in my mail bag - sorry it took so long to get this printed Verle! But, I generally get around to everything sooner or later...

I was amused to read in Issue 1, 1999 (NO! That's not a typo-that's how far behind I can get - WZ8C) about the people who are critical of Extra class hams who can't copy 20 WPM, but it happens just the same.

I can copy 30 WPM in my head with no problem if the sending operator is not sending with his left foot and if there is no QRM/QRN or QSB. However, due to my hands being badly crippled with arthritis, I can not write faster than about 12 WPM.

I was taught that when answering another station that it is customary to answer at the same sending speed as the calling station. This does not appear to hold true in it's entirety. Many stations come back to me at twice my sending speed. This situation is probably not very impressive to the new operator who has been told how considerate ham operators are towards each other, I know that I am not very impressed by

such rudeness. I make a practice to totally ignoring these "speed junkies".

After a QSO is established and I have the vitals recorded, then I tell the other operator to speed up to a speed that is comfortable to him, but not to expect more than 12 to 15 WPM from me. In this age of the code keyboard, and code readers, one may hear code being sent at upwards of 60 WPM, which to me is not impressive. However if this same operator is sending code at 60 WPM with a straight key and copying by ear, I would be deeply impressed if not right down jealous.

Now; I would like to share this incident with our readers. Last year, we were conducting General License tests and I asked a newly licensed Extra Class licensee if he would "proof read" the 13 WPM code test tape for errors before we began the tests, as in times past we have found errors in thee test tapes. Which did cause some confusion. This new operator told me that maybe I should check the tape myself because he could no longer copy 13 WPM. Which still leaves me wondering how he passed a 20 WPM test. Any ideas? 73, Verle W0SZF, #4014 (of course, he would just have to check a 5 WPM test now...but I wonder how many new Extras could even do that! - WZ8C)

****LATE BREAKING NEWS****

The NEW FISTS embroidered cloth patches are here! They are a 4" x 1 1/2" graphic of the key logo featured on the front of the newsletter. It's embroidered in full color on white twill background, with black embroidery around the edges. And they are priced at only ONE DOLLAR! At this price you can afford to put one on every piece of clothing you own!! It's a terrific way to show your love of Morse and your favorite club at the same time! Where else can you get anything so versatile for a buck? Irene won't sell anything she doesn't like, and she LOVES these! Order yours today by sending \$1 per patch to Irene WO8E, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp MI 48038. DX inquire about postage first, please. Postage to USA included in the price.

Challenge = Fun

The FISTS 300 Anniversary award was harder and took longer for me than most of my DXCCs. So will the Platinum 500 (not done) and in retrospect probably the Diamond was too.

For example, I have worked a 40m DXCC (actually 150 countries for the low band monitor's annual awards) nearly every "season" for 5-6 years. I've worked 2 or 3 100 country DXCC's on 80 in that same time frame. 160 is about the only DXCC that I would rate harder than the 300 QSOs for the FISTS Anniversary award. I've worked over 15 DXCC's now from Oklahoma since 1994 (160-10 meters) on all 9 HF bands plus 3 WAZs so I know what is needed in effort there.

The VE's and Clubs are serious challenges and a lot of listening and communicating are needed. The FISTS members are wonderful to talk to and exhibit MANY qualities of friendship including support for us who chase paper even though a number indicated they didn't do so themselves. Nice people. A number of VE operators told me they hadn't been on CW for a long time. Some indicated that our QSO had inspired them to start CW operations again . . . I hope so.

A month ago I was wondering if I would be able to take the time to finish the award before Fall. I try to take a few months off or at least reduce the flame on ham radio to maintain/repair the antennas, tweak rigs, and recharge my personal batteries.

But this time I was soooooooo close to being done with the anniversary award kept plugging away and suddenly it was done! Same problem now with the Platinum 500. I am now 16 CC #'s away and I just hate not keeping my hand in - HI.

The XYL made it a little easier for me this year by surprising me with a FT100D for our 40th anniversary! So now I can send the FT1000D in for a 6 year overhaul it needs badly.

It has about 25,000 QSOs on it and 1615 coun-

tries across the HF bands. Over 1345 confirmed now and I stand at 304 countries but only 290 confirmed - give or take. I would guess maybe 200-300 of those QSO's were SSB all the rest CW.

So I will be operating /5 from a fairly quiet (RF wise) and small lake cabin about 40 miles north of Oklahoma City in Logan county on the week-ends. I usually try to work the Sprints from there. My MFJ 1796 10 band antenna there was pretty much destroyed in an ice storm this spring and I am about 1/2 way done with an aluminum bending project to "fix" it. So my antennas there are pretty simple - multi-band home brew verticals.

I continue to enjoy FISTS. Sometimes I just enjoy the chat as well as chasing the paper. The paper solidifies the effort for me though and makes the quest more fun. W5GR, Nick, was a super fellow. It took us probably over a month to hook up and then it was with his new club call on its first QSO!

On the way I met over 500 FISTS members and chatted with them. It doesn't get any better than this. I joined FISTS in November of 2000 and worked for the Millennium award first. Receiving that award inspired me - it is a beautiful piece of paper - well done.

I now stand at 1583 FISTS QSOs with 983 individual FISTS members. 1254 points and 484 CC #'s. The FISTS WAS was a kick. I have been doing FISTS the last two years much more than DX with the thought that I need to have at least a 100 QSOs to work to finish all countries and zones on all bands after I retire. Those who work it all seem to lose interest and move on and I want to operate ham radio for the rest of my days so I am leaving some stuff to work down stream to give me a goal to work towards. I seem to founder without goals. I would like to see a FISTS WAC. I know there is little activity from Africa so it took me 18 months to find it but still that is the point - it would be a tough FISTS award.

Thanks for the hard work to keep FISTS going. You are doing it well because from what I hear

on the band there are many new members and it is a kick helping them out or talking to them and seeing them get interested in CW. A number have sent me e-mails expressing thanks for the QRS, or digging their QRP signal out etc.

CW is a neat language to use. I would love to be able to take the time to work up to QRQ at 40-50 wpm. I have good days at 25-30 but the upper end eludes me still. On the best days I can copy pieces at 40 but my keyboard skills don't allow me to send yet so my iambic paddle stalls out at 30 or so. CW is fun at any speed though and I really enjoy it. 73es Bob K7LFY

Letter From Our Commercial Morse Op

This is rather long, but I found it interesting and thought some of the members would too, so I'm printing it in it's entirety. I hear so much speculation about commercial use at sea, so it's nice to get the scoop from someone who is there.

It seems I have the dubious honour of being the only member which has a commercial callsign in our club. A little correction though: you may strike off the call letters CYWK as this vessel has now been sold and the flag changed therefore the callsign no longer exists.

It is a shame really that the ship had to go as it was the last Canadian Government ship with a Elektrisk Bureau (Scandinavian) model EB-400 Medium-Frequency (410kHz to 512kHz) MCW/CW transmitter onboard. I used it last in 1999.

The last QSOs were with the few remaining Canadian Coast Guard radio stations in the Maritime provinces such as Sydney/VCO and Yarmouth/VAU and, when sailing in the Gulf of Mexico, with Mobile, Ala./WLO and Havana Radio/CLA! I'll tell you why CLA a little later in this letter. Anyway, the EB-400 had an output of 400W but the strength of the signal really depended upon the length of your long-wire antenna. On r/v "Endeavour"/CYWK my antenna was of a length equivalent to 1/32 of a wavelength on 500kHz (the calling/distress freq. for international shipping) and I used to put out

approx. 6 amps at the antenna - when the porcelain insulators weren't wet or encrusted with salt after a rough crossing with lots of sea spray. Anyway, I never had any problems being heard by anyone when I called a coast station or a ship on 500kHz MCW.

By the way, in case you didn't know, MCW was only allowed on 500kHz, not on the ships' working freqs. 425,448,454,468,480 and 512kHz. Why MCW on 500kHz? Because the modulation was essential in activating the Automatic Alann receivers tuned to 500kHz while the Radio Officer was off watch. I'm back on this one ("Quest"/CZDO) now after it had it's 2 1/2 year mid-life refit (it was built in 1969-70...quite old for a ship working exclusively in salt water and in one of the roughest bodies of water in the world, i.e. the NW North Atlantic). But when it went into mid-life refit in 1997, it was about time. Unfortunately, the "illuminated" in Ottawa took off all the old gear, i.e. the Marconi Int'l Marine Company (formerly "Marconi Wireless Co.") station. Receivers, auto-alarm, 1600W MF/IF/HF transmitters ("Crusader", two of them) and replaced them by Harris Corp. (Rochester, NY) IF/HF 1kW CW/MCW/AM/FM/USB/ISB transmitters (5 of them!), which I rarely use there being almost no CW stns left and none in the USA or Canada.

There's only CLA (Havana) still active but apart from calling him up from time to time to remind him to monitor more closely his CW broadcasts on 47 6kHz (navigational warnings in English and Spanish and traffic lists after announcement on 500kHz) because there are often errors in the bcsts. And I can only call him up in HP [usually on 8368.0kHz, the "channel 3" of the 8MHz ships' calling band (this one of 10 channels is one of two referred to as "Common Channel", the other one being channel 4 being 8369.0)]. He does answer right away though and is very polite and will do everything to correct the errors going so much as fixing the errors and repeating each individual section of bcst where there were errors! His tfc list of today's date was made up of 19 callsigns: that's not too bad but it doesn't mean that those 19 ships all carry a Ra-

dio Officer as this is a rarity these days. In fact, I'm the last Canadian Radio Officer employed on a Canadian ship, Gov't operated or merchant!

I've had almost 35 years in this business, 8 of those on Canadian coast stations (Vancouver/VAI, Prince Rupert/AJ, Grindstone/Magdalen Is.)/VCN and Halifax/VCS). I don't know how long I'll be in this job but had there not been a certain occurrence in my personal life, I probably would have retired a few years ago.

Not much in the way of CW work these days. In fact, since we've left Halifax on Apr 3rd, I haven't touched the key yet! As I said, there's practically no one to talk to. I used to send my AMVER messages (the marine equivalent to a flight plan) to the USCG through a couple of coast stations such as Rogaland(Norway)/LGX or Roma/IAR but LGX now has no more CW service and calling IAR is like p...in the wind! They never answer...which make me believe that either no one knows Morse Code there or they simply are not listening to the HP calling bands or if they hear ships they don't bother answering! Sad.

Anyway the old straight Morse key is sitting in front of me between my PC and the Inmarsat station (maritime satellite) but sort of gathering a bit of dust these days. It's funny, whenever young techs or visiting Navy operators come in my radio-room and see it they all say the same thing: WHAT'S THAT? Ha. Ha. But, oh! how I miss my CW. I was a purist and never accepted receiving or sending messages by any other means than Morse except when I was forced to (more or less) while sitting on the Voice circuits at the coast stations I worked at. But even there, it was rare.

I couldn't wait to get off the voice ckt to get on the CW circuits, such as at VCS where I worked during the peak CW traffic volume years, i.e. between 1977 and 1982. I only started using fax and telex via Inmarsat to exchange message traffic (operational, i.e. other than weather observations and AMVERs) when I couldn't find Canadian or American coast stations who

handled CW anymore and that was back in 1999 when I was still onboard CYWK.

I hope I didn't bore you too much with the story of my (operator's) life but I thought that you might want to know if the only guy in your club with a commercial callsign was still active.

Well, I'm still here, and still sailing on CZDO but doing very little CW. I wish I could QSO FISTS' members in the Ham bands (I obviously have the gear my TXs tunable from 1,600kHz up to 30,000kHz ANYWHERE!!) but I may interfere with the scientific data collection on the ship if I activate my transmitters and that would not be well received if it was only for my pleasure and not to transmit operational traffic!

Once I retire (anyone's guess when that might be) probably I'll have a little Ham station and pull out the old Vibroplex "Lightning Bug" (which looks in mint condition even though I've had it since 1969) which I used for 8 straight hours every time I was on watch at VCS, i.e. for 5 years solid in addition to onboard most of the 25 ships in my career. I miss the bug as it brings back such good memories of intense t/c handled at VCS in MF as well as HP. Boy do I miss those good ol' days of CW. They were when I was happiest in my job.

Today going to sea as a *RIO* is really depressing because indeed CW is (almost) gone. And that was the crux of it all. Well, I kept you long enough so I'll leave now before I start reminiscing some more about the "glory days". Take care, 73 Paul Du Mesnil, Radio Officer research-vessel "Quest"/CZDO FISTS member #4587

Well, FISTS, that's all the room I have for this issue - in case you didn't know, the KN has to be done in multiples of either eight or four pages, depending on whether there is a glossy or plain paper cover on it. Next month I hope to have room to put in some photos from the Hamvention. Thanks to all who sent copies of their digital and paper photographs to me! Don't forget to send in your Summer Sprint scores to Dan, N8IE. 73, 88, 33 (pick what's applicable) Nancy WZ8C

Try the Ham Satellites by Tom KC0W #3001

Are you up for a new CW challenge? Why not try the ham satellites? Here is some information that will help get you started in working the “birds”.

These satellites were put into space for you to use, FREE. The only problem is that few people are taking advantage of them. I keep having CW QSO's with the same 10-12 people. It would be great to get some new people interested in using the satellites.

There are many ham satellites for you to choose from. I will focus on the easiest one to get started with, RS-12/13. You can work either CW or SSB through this satellite. Here are some concerns you may have about working RS-12/13 .

Q: It's too complicated.

A: Not at all. You simply need the time of day the satellite will pass near your location.

Q: How do I find that information?

A: The Internet. NASA will email you the times centered on your exact QTH. Best of all, it's FREE and extremely accurate. There are also free shareware downloads off the Internet.

Q: I need a “satellite radio”.

A: Not really. If you have an advanced or extra class license, you can “uplink” on 15 meters. All other class licenses must use an all-mode 2 meter cw/ssb radio. For receiving your signal, you will need a radio capable of reception on the high portion of 10 meters. A CHEAP RADIO WILL WORK FINE FOR THE RECEIVING RADIO.

Q: Do I need special antennas?

A: No. For the 2 meter uplink a vertical and 25 watts or less will work just fine. For the 15 meter uplink a dipole and 50-100 watts will work nicely. On the 10 meter downlink, a dipole, vertical or even a random length wire is all you may need.

Q: What is the duration of the satellite pass? A: Anywhere from about 5-17 minutes.

Q: What kind of DX can I expect?

A: You will be able to work all US States. (Alaska & Hawaii are kind of tough) Most of Canada, The Caribbean, Mexico and occasionally Central and South America. Don't expect downlink signals to be real strong. An RST of 559 is normal.

Q: How many times a day can I work RS-12/13?

A: Usually around 2-4. Some passes are longer than others.

Q: How many people can use the satellite at once?

A: Quite a few. The entire downlink for cw/ssb operation runs from 29.460- 29.500 MHz.

If this sounds of interest to you, here are some web sites you may want to check out: (make sure you enter the address EXACTLY as shown)

1. <http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/RealTime/JPass/> For the times the satellite will pass near your QTH. Be sure to select RS-12/13 from the drop down menu.

2. <http://www.qsl.net/ac5dk/rs1213/rs1213.html> A site that explains how to work RS-12/13 better than I can. Including the exact frequencies to use and how to find your downlink signal on

the receiving radio. Also, how to compensate for something called "Doppler Shift".

3. <http://www.hotboards.com/powerforum/pwrforum.exe?who=rs 1213> A message board for questions, comments or setting up skeds on RS- 12/13.

4. <http://www.nlsa.com> Software manufacturer of satellite tracking programs. In my opinion the best one out there. If you decide that the satellites are for you, this software will let you track hundreds of different kinds of satellites.

5. <http://www.amsat.org> The people who voluntarily build some of the ham satellites. Lots of good links and information regarding all aspects of "working the birds". Includes membership information and free downloadable satellite tracking programs.

So there you have it. I hope you give ham satellite CW operation a try. Look for me on the DOWNLINK frequency of 29.465 MHz.CW almost every day.

I will do my best to answer any questions you may have about ham satellite operation. My email address is: cqdx4@aol.com

See you on the "bird" Tom KC0W #3001

P.S. I have yet to work any other FISTS members on RS- 12/13. Accomplishing WAS or CC is entirely possible if we can generate enough activity

In a Rut? Try Traffic! By Anne W12G, #3143

If you're looking for something a bit more...well, *structured* (and fun) than the hit-or-miss, run-of-the-mill RST -name-QTH-rig-weather QSO and aren't Type-A enough for contesting, you may want to take another look at traffic handling. It's a great way to make on-the-air friends while performing a valuable public service and demonstrating amateur radio in a positive light to the non-ham community, most of whom have no idea that the free radiogram service we provide is an essential part of our disaster-preparedness training.

When I was first licensed in 1986 I knew practically nothing about traffic-handling except that it seemed boring and weird. Despite a 20 year mental block against learning CW, I was already sold on the advantages of CW. Being a city-slicker ham with a modest antenna, already hearing the distant thunder of an RFI dispute with a neighbor, CW seemed the only way to get out.

By the time I got my General in '87 it was clear that DXing was impractical under the circumstances and I'm not into sleep deprivation enough for contesting, so public service seemed the way to go. I read up a bit on traffic-handling - then much more of a priority than it is now with the ARRL - and started checking into the Empire Slow Speed Net (ESS), which meets at 10 wpm daily at 6 p.m. Eastern on 3590 kHz.

It was laid-back and it *was fun!* In addition to ESS, I began checking into the Big Apple VHF Traffic Net and, eventually, into NYS (the New York State CW net); over the years - with a barefoot rig and no beam - I've enjoyed two places on the TCC (Transcontinental Corps—coast-to-coast relaying) roster and have participated to a greater or lesser degree in just about every traffic net it's possible to make from here. One of the best aspects of traffic-handling is its flexibility. You choose your level of participation, since you're part of a much larger network.

At the moment, I manage ESS—a painful thing to say because I inherited the net (literally) from Pete Gellert, W2WSS, a dear friend and the best of my many Elmers. But life goes on; ESS will celebrate 50 years of operation soon, and while we're in fine shape a new fist or two—or ten!—is always welcome. While the net is New York-based, we welcome and encourage checkins from anywhere and our diverse membership offers something for everyone. We hope to hear you soon!

T E M P E R A T U R E C O N V E R S I O N .

| F | C | F | C | F | C |
|-----------|---------|----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| -32 DEG = | -35.6 C | 28 DEG = | -2.2 DEG C | 88 DEG = | 31.1 DEG C |
| -31 DEG = | -35. C | 29 DEG = | -1.7 DEG C | 89 DEG = | 31.7 DEG C |
| -30 DEG = | -34.4 C | 30 DEG = | -1.1 DEG C | 90 DEG = | 32.2 DEG C |
| -29 DEG = | -33.9 C | 31 DEG = | -0.6 DEG C | 91 DEG = | 32.8 DEG C |
| -28 DEG = | -33.3 C | 32 DEG = | 0 DEG C | 92 DEG = | 33.3 DEG C |
| -27 DEG = | -32.8 C | 33 DEG = | 6 DEG C | 93 DEG = | 33.9 DEG C |
| -26 DEG = | -32.2 C | 34 DEG = | 1.1 DEG C | 94 DEG = | 34.4 DEG C |
| -25 DEG = | -31.7 C | 35 DEG = | 1.7 DEG C | 95 DEG = | 35 DEG C |
| -24 DEG = | -31.1 C | 36 DEG = | 2.2 DEG C | 96 DEG = | 35.6 DEG C |
| -23 DEG = | -30.6 C | 37 DEG = | 2.8 DEG C | 97 DEG = | 36.1 DEG C |
| -22 DEG = | -30 C | 38 DEG = | 3.3 DEG C | 98 DEG = | 36.7 DEG C |
| -21 DEG = | -29.4 C | 39 DEG = | 3.9 DEG C | 99 DEG = | 37.2 DEG C |
| -20 DEG = | -28.9 C | 40 DEG = | 4.4 DEG C | 100 DEG = | 37.8 DEG C |
| -19 DEG = | -28.3 C | 41 DEG = | 5 DEG C | 101 DEG = | 38.3 DEG C |
| -18 DEG = | -27.8 C | 42 DEG = | 5.6 DEG C | 102 DEG = | 38.9 DEG C |
| -17 DEG = | -27.2 C | 43 DEG = | 6.1 DEG C | 103 DEG = | 39.4 DEG C |
| -16 DEG = | -26.7 C | 44 DEG = | 6.7 DEG C | 104 DEG = | 40 DEG C |
| -15 DEG = | -26.1 C | 45 DEG = | 7.2 DEG C | 105 DEG = | 40.6 DEG C |
| -14 DEG = | -25.6 C | 46 DEG = | 7.8 DEG C | 106 DEG = | 41.1 DEG C |
| -13 DEG = | -25 C | 47 DEG = | 8.3 DEG C | 107 DEG = | 41.7 DEG C |
| -12 DEG = | -24.4 C | 48 DEG = | 8.9 DEG C | 108 DEG = | 42.2 DEG C |
| -11 DEG = | -23.9 C | 49 DEG = | 9.4 DEG C | 109 DEG = | 42.8 DEG C |
| -10 DEG = | -23.3 C | 50 DEG = | 10 DEG C | 110 DEG = | 43.3 DEG C |
| - 9 DEG = | -22.8 C | 51 DEG = | 10.6 DEG C | 111 DEG = | 43.9 DEG C |
| - 8 DEG = | -22.2 C | 52 DEG = | 11.1 DEG C | 112 DEG = | 44.4 DEG C |
| - 7 DEG = | -21.7 C | 53 DEG = | 11.7 DEG C | 113 DEG = | 45 DEG C |
| - 6 DEG = | -21.1 C | 54 DEG = | 12.2 DEG C | 114 DEG = | 45.6 DEG C |
| - 5 DEG = | -20.6 C | 55 DEG = | 12.8 DEG C | 115 DEG = | 46.1 DEG C |
| - 4 DEG = | -20 C | 56 DEG = | 13.3 DEG C | 116 DEG = | 46.7 DEG C |
| - 3 DEG = | -19.4 C | 57 DEG = | 13.9 DEG C | 117 DEG = | 47.2 DEG C |
| - 2 DEG = | -18.9 C | 58 DEG = | 14.4 DEG C | 118 DEG = | 47.8 DEG C |
| - 1 DEG = | -18.3 C | 59 DEG = | 15 DEG C | 119 DEG = | 48.3 DEG C |
| 0 DEG = | -17.8 C | 60 DEG = | 15.6 DEG C | 120 DEG = | 48.9 DEG C |
| 1 DEG = | -17.2 C | 61 DEG = | 16.1 DEG C | 121 DEG = | 49.4 DEG C |
| 2 DEG = | -16.7 C | 62 DEG = | 16.7 DEG C | 122 DEG = | 50 DEG C |
| 3 DEG = | -16.1 C | 63 DEG = | 17.2 DEG C | 123 DEG = | 50.6 DEG C |
| 4 DEG = | -15.6 C | 64 DEG = | 17.8 DEG C | 124 DEG = | 51.1 DEG C |
| 5 DEG = | -15 C | 65 DEG = | 18.3 DEG C | 125 DEG = | 51.7 DEG C |
| 6 DEG = | -14.4 C | 66 DEG = | 18.9 DEG C | 126 DEG = | 52.2 DEG C |
| 7 DEG = | -13.9 C | 67 DEG = | 19.4 DEG C | 127 DEG = | 52.8 DEG C |
| 8 DEG = | -13.3 C | 68 DEG = | 20 DEG C | 128 DEG = | 53.3 DEG C |
| 9 DEG = | -12.8 C | 69 DEG = | 20.6 DEG C | 129 DEG = | 53.9 DEG C |
| 10 DEG = | -12.2 C | 70 DEG = | 21.1 DEG C | 130 DEG = | 54.4 DEG C |
| 11 DEG = | -11.7 C | 71 DEG = | 21.7 DEG C | 131 DEG = | 55 DEG C |
| 12 DEG = | -11.1 C | 72 DEG = | 22.2 DEG C | 132 DEG = | 55.6 DEG C |
| 13 DEG = | -10.6 C | 73 DEG = | 22.8 DEG C | 133 DEG = | 56.1 DEG C |
| 14 DEG = | -10 C | 74 DEG = | 23.3 DEG C | 134 DEG = | 56.7 DEG C |
| 15 DEG = | - 9.4 C | 75 DEG = | 23.9 DEG C | 135 DEG = | 57.2 DEG C |
| 16 DEG = | - 8.9 C | 76 DEG = | 24.4 DEG C | 136 DEG = | 57.8 DEG C |
| 17 DEG = | - 8.3 C | 77 DEG = | 25 DEG C | 137 DEG = | 58.3 DEG C |
| 18 DEG = | - 7.8 C | 78 DEG = | 25.6 DEG C | 138 DEG = | 58.9 DEG C |
| 19 DEG = | - 7.2 C | 79 DEG = | 26.1 DEG C | 139 DEG = | 59.4 DEG C |
| 20 DEG = | - 6.7 C | 80 DEG = | 26.7 DEG C | 140 DEG = | 60 DEG C |
| 21 DEG = | - 6.1 C | 81 DEG = | 27.2 DEG C | 141 DEG = | 60.6 DEG C |
| 22 DEG = | - 5.6 C | 82 DEG = | 27.8 DEG C | 142 DEG = | 61.1 DEG C |
| 23 DEG = | - 5 C | 83 DEG = | 28.3 DEG C | 143 DEG = | 61.7 DEG C |
| 24 DEG = | - 4.4 C | 84 DEG = | 28.9 DEG C | 144 DEG = | 62.2 DEG C |
| 25 DEG = | - 3.8 C | 85 DEG = | 29.4 DEG C | 145 DEG = | 62.8 DEG C |
| 26 DEG = | - 3.3 C | 86 DEG = | 30 DEG C | 146 DEG = | 63.3 DEG C |
| 27 DEG = | - 2.8 C | 87 DEG = | 30.6 DEG C | 147 DEG = | 63.9 DEG C |

KE4HZM

RICHARD B BRADLEY

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

COMMITTEE

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO

86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028. 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

<fistsawards@attbi.com>

written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3

2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

liar virus. Seemingly sends a loaded message to a couple of addresses from the address book and then disappears but before it does so, it renders the AV inoperative and disables the update feature. As a dummy (3rd class) it took me all of two hair tearing days to get things back to an apparent norm. Doesn't it just make you mad! So I must apologise to anyone who was similarly afflicted after receiving a spurious message from me.

As you can see from the April Ladder results, the take-up has been very disappointing and it is hardly surprising that Keith, M0CLO, has indicated his intentions to spend his time on better things. A handful of entries from over 1,000 EU members can hardly be described as encouraging, and thus far there have been no volunteers to take over as Contest Manager.

An email arrived from a non-member decrying the response of a station calling CQ FISTS on 20m. Seems the member in question was having little joy in his search but when the 'G' station responded pointing out that he was sorry but he was not a member, the result was simply 'CQ FISTS'. I know we do not have that many die-hards but perhaps it is time to remind you that we are about MORSE primarily and not FISTS. It is quite understandable that those of you working for awards will specify FISTS but a brief reply to a non-member will hardly put a crater sized hole in your numbers list and it does reinforce the prime aim of the club "to encourage the use of CW."

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK/EU members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYL. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNLEY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPshed, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL special** (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Welcome to summer people. At the time of writing, there are gale force winds, rain and temperatures only just into double figures but I guess that is the norm for the Northwest of England. Hi. Problem is that the bands seem to have followed suit. Beaming to the US on 20/15M results in an almost deafening silence whilst beaming South of East gives me Zagreb and 9A2HF at S9 plus and just about nothing else though I did hear a PY coming in at S9.

Fun and games this month at HQ when my trusted friend Norton Anti Virus let a worm (KEZ) slip through the net. A most pecu-

SILENT KEY

Belated advice from the family of Vince, MD0ADD that he is now silent key but no date or other info is given.

Also, on 15 Jan 2002, Eric, G5VQ at 87 years of age.

And from Chuck (M0AVW) via a returned package, we learn of the passing of John, GW3JUN. Again, no further information.

G3LCG - FISTS 5553 - died on Thursday 9th. May 2002.

Peter loved amateur radio - especially cw. He was a Novice Instructor and as a member of RSARS, prepared many Scarborough College students for the City & Guilds Novice Radio Amateurs examination. He was also a member of FOC and The Scarborough Special Events Group. Kind Regards, Tony - G4OPI - FISTS 3284

At the request of his Daughter, It is with much sadness that I have to inform you, that Dick Rugg G2BRR / FISTS 7133 went SK on Wednesday 22nd May 2002.

GSWL2 Pete Rayer

WHERE DOES THIS ONE GO?



Chuck, M0AVW, has asked me to remind all our M0(A) members that he is also the RSGB sub mgr for this series. To save him spending big money on aspirins, would M0As please ensure that they make plain on the cards if the destination is a FISTS member otherwise, we may have to send the boys round!

REVISED AGCW AWARD

AGCW-DL has announced a revised version of its New Millennium Award: Applicants are required to reach a score of 2000 points for CW (A1A or F2A) QSOs worked with AGCW members since January 2000.

Scoring is as follows:

Each AGCW member worked counts 20 points

Each AGCW club station worked counts 50 points.

The club stations are: DF0ACW, DF0AGC, DK0AG, DL0CWW, and DL0DA.

Each AGCW member number can be claimed only once.

To obtain the award, send a log excerpt to:

Andreas Herzig, DM5JBN (AGCW 1893), Bergring 5, D-08129 Oberrothenbach, Germany.

E-mail: agcw2000@agcw.de

Fee: Euro 5 or USD 7

Please note: The previous version of this award was limited to QSOs in the year 2000 only.

The new version does not have a date limit

(Information and translation from Martin, IK2RMZ.)

DX NEWS FROM F5NQL

A sad affair.; What can think of that a newcomer in Ham Radio?

Jean Baptiste, F8DQL, who lives in Paris, go to his parents in Tahiti at the beginning of May. While the three days when he was flying from Paris via San Francisco, a pirate made some QSOs on 10.1 and 14 MHz CW, using his call FO/F8DQL.

A sad affair .; What can think of that a newcomer in Ham Radio? Jean Baptiste, F8DQL, who lives in Paris, go to his parents' in Tahiti at the beginning of May. While the three days when he was flying to from Paris via San Francisco, a pirate made some QSO's on 10.1 and 14 Mhz CW, using his call FO/F8DQL.

Received with more than 599+60db signal in Paris at 1400 UTC on poor antennas, some french DX'ers reacted and FO/F8DQL was reported as a pirate. However Jean Baptiste was really at his parents' but about 3 days later. So when he came on the air it was very difficult for him to traffic. Jean Baptiste is a newcomer in DX, CW and pile up. He didn't need this kind of joke.

I phone him when returned in Paris and to Paul, F2YT; together, we decided to send a complete file with documentation and including the log book to Gérard, F2VX, French DXCC checker, to be verified and sent then to Bill, NC1L. We hope for those who have had QSO's with FO/F8DQL, that this traffic will be accepted.

Those who had contacts with Jean Baptiste, will be confirmed if they want.. But submitting the card for DXCC credit, will need some delay.

For information these are by country the number of QSO's he made only on 14, 21, 28Mhz CW:

For information these are by country the number of QSO's he made only on 14, 21, 28Mhz CW:

United States 46, Japan 21, France 9, Germany 4, Australia 4, New Zealand 4, Angleterre 3, Argentina 3, Poland 3, Csech Republic 3, Russia 3, Spain 2, Suède 2, Belgium 1, Bulgarie : 1 South Korea 1 Scotland 1 Finland 1 Hongrie 1 Italia 1, Mexico 1, Morocco 1, Polynésie 1, Slovénia 1, Vanuatu 1.

Jean Baptiste expect to go once more to his parents' next year and he hope there will not be pirates on his way.

73 see you and if you hear something of JB/F8DQL, call him. Maurice, F5NQL

Thankyou Maurice and would appreciate advance info.

EUCW QRS RESULTS

Once again an interesting set of logs has been received although not as many as I had hoped for. What was apparent from the logs was that most people enjoyed the event again and it was nice to see some new call signs.

This year our eldest entrant went one better than last year and won the event, many congratulations Dick, G8NT. The score Dick achieved was nearly 11,000 higher than last year's winner and more than double his last years score. It goes to prove that with some effort QSO's can be found and good scores assembled.

Congratulations to all the certificate winners and especially G0EML, Ray, for winning the "Most Readable Morse Heard" during the event. It was interesting to note that, like last year's winner of this title, this was Ray's first contest.

RESULT LIST "*" indicates Certificate Winners.

Class A

| Callign Club | | Points | Mults | Total |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| G8NT | FISTS | 592 | 46 | 27,232 * |
| IK2RMZ | AGCW | 211 | 46 | 9706 * |
| G3HZL | FISTS | 228 | 42 | 9576 * |
| G0EML | FISTS | 316 | 30 | 9480 * |
| G4NCU | FISTS | 173 | 32 | 5536 |
| DL5AYRTC | | 172 | 25 | 4300 |
| DL1BUG | | 148 | 24 | 3552 |
| G0GSY | FISTS | 128 | 21 | 2688 |
| PA3AFF | FISTS | 135 | 14 | 1890 |
| G4LHI | FISTS | 53 | 5 | 265 |
| M5ABN | FISTS | 32 | 6 | 192 |
| OH7QR | FISTS | 33 | 5 | 165 |
| G3WP | FISTS | 21 | 7 | 147 |
| DL0GRH | AGCW | 12 | 4 | 48 |
| G4XPE | FISTS | 10 | 1 | 10 |

CLASS B

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|-----|----|--------|
| G4FAI | FISTS | 112 | 27 | 3024 * |
| HB9OU | HTC | 61 | 12 | 732 * |
| OK2BMA | OKQRPC | 52 | 13 | 676 * |
| G3FIJ | FISTS | 26 | 6 | 156 |
| HB9DEO | HTC | 4 | 2 | 8 |

It should be noted that DL1BUG was operating as a multiplier this year, hence he used four clubs and as he didn't have very much time, he changed his club after every QSO.

As I am giving up the FISTS Contest Managers position I am not sure what will happen to this contest next year.

73 Keith Farthing, M0CLO, FISTS Contest Manager

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Had a query from a member who was refused a copy of the e-mail list by Kathi and queried this with Nancy who explained that they were having the same problems that I found on the smartgroups setup only with a vengeance.

Lower numbers will remember that I was obliged to remove the messaging facility from our page on smartgroups for just this reason. Nancy replied: *"We are having alot of problems here due to hams with businesses using the list to advertise their products and others sending out unwanted political rantings and non-FISTS issues not to mention spam and virus/worms. Many people were asking to be deleted from the list because they did not want unsolicited mailings, even though they wanted to get the periodic FISTS updates I send. It's not a hardship on the general membership who just need one or two email addresses for whatever reason, and it keeps people from just cutting and pasting the whole list into their TO: box and easily sending spam. Keeping two lists (one for club use and another for publication is out of the question. Those who want their email addresses known can always join a discussion group and/or register their email address with Buckmaster or QRZ."*

Not surprisingly in the circumstances, she asked Kathi to restrict the e-mail list to a small group comprising active office holders. It is of course a great shame that the selfish actions of a few should impinge so broadly on the majority but in the interests of privacy, no other action is possible.

FISTS LADDER-APRIL RESULTS

My thanks to the few regular contributors to the Ladder event this month. Congratulations once more to Peter G4LHI for winning again, three out of four months, I guess somebody is going to have to try a little harder. Hi Hi.

Again it's a shame more people can't make the effort to send in a log, there's lots of you on Peters log.

As mentioned in last months Keynote I am giving up the Contest Managers post and the offers to take over are even less than the logs for contests. Perhaps like a lot of other clubs some members are quick to criticise but slow in volunteering.

The results are as follows:-

| | APRIL | YEARS |
|--------|-------|------------|
| TOTAL | | |
| G4LHI | 205 | G4LHI 786 |
| G0SCP | 131 | G0SCP 555 |
| GW0SGG | 70 | M5ABN 289 |
| M5ABN | 63 | G3VQO 145 |
| G3VQO | 33 | GW0SGG 110 |
| M0CMQ | 14 | M0CMQ 63 |
| OH7QR | 4 | G0MRH 49 |
| | | OH7QR 16 |

73 Keith M0CLO

| NEW MEMBERS | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|
| 8900 | M3ABL | Martin | 8901 | SV1EFP | |
| Stavros | | | | | |
| 8902 | M0COL | Ron | 8903 | G4HBY | Mick |
| 8904 | G3XYS | Mark | 8905 | S58MU | Mil |
| 8906 | G4HSO | Peter | 8907 | M0RHB | Rod |
| 8908 | GX0NWM | | CLUB 8909 | | |
| EA5QB | Jose | | | | |
| 8910 | G0EKP | Stella | 8911 | M5LRO | Chris |
| 8912 | ON7OP | Phil | 8913 | G3BEX | John |
| 8914 | 2E0ANS | Maurice | 8915 | G0PLW | Brian |
| 8916 | F3WT | Pierre | 8917 | G0TYH | Peter |
| 8918 | G3RXH | Howard | 8919 | G3VGU | John |

GX0NWM incidentally is the club station of the Tynemouth ARC. Expect to find various operators but the custodian of the FISTS number is Chuck, M0AVW.

AWARDS POINTS

The whole idea of an Awards manager is exactly the same as the Contest manager. I can divorce myself from both subjects and concentrate instead on admin and the Keynote. Having received a query concerning points allocation for the US where Canada, Mexico etc (for many less than 50 miles away) yeilds 2 points per contact. I sent the query to Dennis who responded thus:

"I've been grading all the award logs I receive, both DX and US, the same way. That is, I give credit as follows; 1 point for FISTS contact with your own country 2 points for contact with another country as per DXCC rules 3 points for contact with an affiliated FISTS club station I would like to see the award rules the same for all club members, ... and I must say it is easier to check over logs when using 2 points for any country other than your own."

73, Dennis K6DF"

I suppose the US v Canada is really the same as UK v France though the people on the West coast wouldn't see it that way. We originally looked at the points with a European slant hence 2 points for contacts beyond your own continent.

I hope this does not mean that "G" stations will be claiming 2 points for GW/GM but bear in mind that France is a little over 20 miles across the channel Remember also that no QSL cards are required for claims therefore those who stoop to cheating or cutting corners are only fooling themselves.

STRANGE HAPPENINGS (HSC)

I received a multiple page RTF document concerning the activities of one ex-HSC member related to HSC e.V. which defies belief. There is a lot of legal manipulation involved here concerning the status of HSC v HSC v.E. The early history reads like something out of Alice in Wonderland:

After furtive preparations, the former member of our HSC, Udo Osenbrügge, DJ7LQ, founded his own CW club in late 1979, aided and abetted by a few sympathisers, none of whom were ever members of the HSC, and some of whom later resigned their membership in this new organisation. There would, basically, have been no objections to a new CW club being founded, if Osenbrügge had not usurped (i.e. misappropriated/robbed by usage against the will of its members) the name and the diamond-shaped emblem of our HSC which was founded in 1951 as a "body of persons" (pursuant to the German law governing associations, clubs and the like) within the DARC e.V., and had registered both in the registry of associations and patterns. Having gained experience in changing the functions of clubs, both the name and logo of the VHSC were also purloined within a short period of time.

I understand that at the foundation meeting of v.E, he declared (on his own authority) that the HSC was dissolved. From what I can gather from the text, he then went on a legal rampage for many years, sending threatening letters to a number of established HSC members in an effort to force them to join his own (e.V) version of the club and suing numerous individuals and organisations for a variety of reasons. A printer was sued because he caused QSL cards to be printed with the HSC Logo "Even the owners of hotels, restaurants or similar premises, in which events of the HSC took place, received letters intending to intimidate them with a view to impeding or preventing the meetings of HSC members". In every case, the result of the action was nil and over the years, it must have cost an unthinkable amount of money in failed legal proceedings where he ended up paying court costs.

Osenbrügge suffered considerable financial losses (worth several complete ham stations) as a result of all these lost court cases; thus, Osenbrügge vanished from the scene for some 17 years, and hardly anyone wasted any thoughts with regard to his club. Yet, having recovered financially and in the hope that dust had settled on the matter, he resumed his activities on the amateur bands as DFOHSC/DJ7LQ with renewed fanatical vigour three years ago. He is pursuing his interference unwaveringly and with new tactics, claiming to represent the only "true" HSC of 1951. In a letter dated September 1983 to the Starnberg registry court, he states, amongst other things: "Irrespective of the negative rulings, HSC (namely "HSC e.V.") continues to reserve the right to use the letter combination of "HSC". There seems to be nobody or nothing that will convince him that the law is not on his side, not even courts of law.

The pages read like the script of a television comedy show and borders on the unbelievable.

I reiterate the warnings in Keynote a couple of months back and the advice to treat with caution any correspondence or other communications purporting to emanate from HSC v.E or and variant (SHSC, VHSC etc)

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4KPN. Must have won the lottery. Bought himself a pair of Shure paddles but is still looking for a Peter Jones (single or twin). Any advice out there? G3MCK. Gerald, whilst acknowledging that contest activity on the WARC bands is discouraged, asks what are we supposed to do when the MUF is below 10MHz. Well, I guess that leaves only 40 and 80m Gerald but under those conditions, I doubt if there would be much enthusiasm for contesting even on those bands. GW0SGG. First word I have had for ages concerning my HAM LOG programme. Seems Bill (and I suspect a few more) regard it as more convenient than some of the all-singing varieties though I confess I could not re-write it for Windows. G0IYZ. Chris was most enthusiastic about the special event station GB0MGY and scoured the bands for signs of them. Checked with the local DX cluster and eventually found traffic working them on 14015 from where he finally managed a very difficult QSO. Seems they shifted to 12m (waste of time for UK stations) on Sunday. He mentions that he checked out the SSB portion of 40m to find many stations grouching about the lack of LF activity by the station. Chris stuck his oar in and found himself talking to GB0MPA (the SES for the SS Carpathia) and GB0MGY was eventually found on 40m where Chris managed another QSO in a horrendous pile-up G0SDA. Colin points out that the band plan quotes CW only, Digi-modes and CW with SSB and CW for varying portions. Using CW in the SSB portion of the bands however would prove most unpopular and to be honest I have never heard it being used up there. He also points out that CW is included in the official RSGB description of digital modes. RTTY is almost as dated as CW but copy is more prone to corruption by QRM, but PSK is bang up to date & the PSK signal is so narrow one can see AND resolve almost faultlessly, all the PSK signals on a band without touching the tuning knob of the rig. It is far more efficient than CW in terms of bandwidth, as well as being almost bomb proof. & it does not need high power, spectacular DX results have been achieved using QRP. M0CES. As a newcomer to FISTS I felt I had to write to express my appreciation of those FISTS who have so patiently put up with my Morse! I passed at 12 wpm last October (2 days after the requirement dropped to 5 wpm) after nearly a year of practice. Once on HF I found 12 wpm was far less than many folk were prepared to work at and after a few QSO's were abandoned half way through by the "other station", I was fit to throw in the towel. However, after encouragement from my CW mentor Tony, G0PEH and fellow FISTS Steve, M0CUT, I decided to join and have a go. I am delighted by the gentlemanly conduct of all the FISTS I have met on air and the patience they have shown me. This was indeed put to the test recently when I switched in a much neglected paddle key. If one's sending goes wrong, it goes wrong spectacularly with a paddle!!! But I persevere and speed and competence is improving slowly and I was finally rewarded with my first QSO across the pond with Ray. AA3DW in North Carolina on 20m. Must also mention OM3TGB, G3FIJ and SM4ETF for their on-air support. If there is a ray of hope for those who lament the demise of the Morse requirement, it must be in the new operators they encourage to have a go, and support with that patience which is the hallmark of FISTS! M0CMQ. Had a nice QSO with EA8IIK with a newly installed GP3 vertical. W3DZZ for LF but sadly

RX only on 80m. Acquisition of a PC has encouraged him to enroll for an OU Course in computer basics.

NA MEMO

When the Postal delivery van arrived I was transmogrified and almost suffered a hernia hoisting an 'M' bag with 30+ copies of the above. Arrived too late to do anything about distribution at the rally but those who would like a copy, pse gimme a bell first to confirm availability and then send me a couple of 2nd class stamps - at 60+ pages of art paper, this is demanded. It contains much information together with several pages of thumbnail mug-shots of (mainly) US members so, if you want to see what that regular contact looks like - now is your chance! Seems Nancy shot a bag off to Ralph and the gang down under by request so thought she would send me a batch at the same time.

EU & DX SUBS

No response to the request for information concerning 'Direct Transfer'. I am still keen to find out how much it would cost the originator to pay their subs this way. At £7.00 for EU members or £4.00 for digital Keynote recipients, I am wary making suggestions beyond the use of US/UK banknotes or Euros. Send a personal cheque for (say) 6 Euros and in order to get this sum into the club accounts, it would be necessary to increase the value of the cheque to 18 Euros (the excess being a 'gift' to the bank) which is clearly not on. I am also keen to learn the cost of either transferring funds from account to account or sending small value cheques within the EEC. If this is reasonable then I would again seek a European paymaster who could open a separate account for us, store the incoming subs and send a reasonable sized cheque or transfer periodically. It is such a shame that the UK banks are so voracious - surely the European banks do not behave in a similar manner?

WANTED

Bill, GM0KMG, is in need of info on the Collins SWR unit. ID is 524/4116/004, MCN, 2788. It has 4 connections lying bare at one end and 5 (insulated) at t'other and Bill is also keen to know about maximum power etc.

This is a repeat from last month but Bill has had no response so has asked me to include his phone number (0141-562457 and his address (180 Castlemilk Rd, Glasgow, G44 4NS)

Unless clearly specified, I do not generally print these details so future "Wants" pse note.

FISTS DOWN UNDER URL

Through the efforts and courtesy of VK2DLF-George-9052 we now have a FISTS Down Under web site. Check it out. The address is <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

If you have any comments or suggestions and any suitable pictures, contact George at vk2dlf@hotmail.com

S58MU

Following publication of Keynote, I received an application form from Mil and he was allocated number 8905. I did my best to repair the damage by sending an e-mail to all subscribers to our digital Keynote but sadly it was too late to do little else. In fairness though, without a FISTS number, Mil should not have been calling CQ FISTS - it caused a lot of confusion. Hi.

WEST MANCHESTER RALLY

Sorry but these days, not only am I sans transport but also just a little too long in the tooth and standing for any length of time is (to say the least) uncomfortable. However, Bob, G0FRL took out a couple of tables for the above event and recorded 15 members who signed in: G0FRL, M0BAU, M0CKD, G0EOK, G4PPG, M0BWP, G0TYH, G3RXH, SWL4, G4KKI, G4JKW, G3CWI, M0HDE, and G3YTZ.

FINALE

Had a rather interesting report this month concerning the special event stn GB90GMY but strapped for space again. Briefly, too much HF leaving little opportunity for EU on the LF bands. However, Chris, G0IYZ, managed a brace via 20 and 40M.

I am celebrating the Jubilee weekend printing, collating, folding and stuffing this issue into envelopes. Still, it's better than scanning the TV looking for non-football channels. Hi.

Speaking of Football, there was to have been a special event from Germany for the world cup but a search for more info proved negative.

The anticipated invitation to the Jubilee celebrations at the Palace seems to have got lost in the post. No bad thing perhaps because there is much to do here!

During June, there will be a surfeit of GQ stations on the bands but look out specially for a few GB50 stations. My thanks to those kind souls who extend their best wishes to Ivy both via mail and on air. I have her at home for a few hours one day each week so things are not too bad.

Dayton has been and gone now but Nancy sent me a whole raft of new members together with a list of members who were out of compliance but are now reinstated having settled their dues at the FISTS stand.

Take care people. Enjoy the summer weather (assuming you actually get some) and I'll see you on the bands.

73 '88 es stay sober de Geo



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: GM4ELV

1 Micklehouse Rd, Springhill, G69 6TG.

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>

webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

<fistsawards@attbi.com>

written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

sion but since there has been no negative feed back, I take it that all was well.

I still had not got the new computer up and running (it is intended to echo the original in case of problems) but Andys' plight put some pepper into my resolve and I spent a great deal of time shifting data from one to the other, finding the usual niggling problems (mainly hardware related) on the way. I now have some pretty pictures on a newly acquired 17 inch TFT monitor and life is getting a little easier. Hi. Radio-wise, little has been happening here apart from monitoring various bands via the speaker and wide filter which yielded little in some disappointing band conditions. Mayhap we will find time to spend a little more time on air shortly.

CONTEST MANAGER

Dale, GM4ELV has kindly agreed to take over this position and has been conversing with Keith, M0CLO, via e-mail. He has been virtually silent for many weeks now - disappointed by some less than agreeable attitudes on the bands - and happy to turn his hand to some other activity so I trust his involvement in our contests will keep him off street corners. He is due to take over from Keith last day in July.

DX STUFF

Iceland, TF, July 2/8, QSL XE1KK

Western Samoa, 5W, July 2/12, QSL K8AA

Svalbard, JW4LN, July 6/16, QSL LA4LN

Market Reef, OJ0VR, July 8/11, QSL OH1VR

Market Reef, OJ0, July 8, 11, QSL AE9YL

Guadaloupe, FM July 10/25, No QSL info

San Andres Providencia, HK0ZZ, QSL DH7WW

Maldives, July 30/Aug 11, 8Q7ZZ, QSL G3SWH (IOTA)

Deer Island, July 31/Aug 5, KL7AK, QSL N6AWD (IOTA)

GREETINGS

It has been a strange month here at HQ with myself flitting from one problem to another, stealing time here, borrowing it there and generally cutting corners. Amid all this, Andy, G0JLX suffered a massive hard disc failure and lost absolutely everything. Ralph (ZL2AOH) sorted out his back numbers to contribute towards his update whilst I shuttled the existing address book and a couple of back numbers of Keynote to him together with an updated listing. In this way, he was QRV again within a week of the disaster during which Keynote was converted to its .PDF format and despatched to our e-mail subscribers from here asap. This was something of an exercise in nail biting for me because I have never been altogether happy about this type of conver-

AND ZUT TO YOU TOO

For some time many of you have been referring to 'ZUT' in e-mails. I just took it as a quirk (an offensive quirk possibly) but I learn that it is US coast-guard speak for 'CW Forever'. Not heard it used on-air yet though!

CLUB CALL AND QSL CARDS

M0BPT is understandably getting a headache or two when members who use the club calls submit cards. It is important to identify yourself. Also, if you are gonna submit a number of cards then the appropriate stash of envelopes and address labels should be included. There can't be too many UFOs (Unidentified Fists Operators) knocking about because the cards are normally printed here at HQ and the ID is printed by default.

QRS NET

Bill, GW0SGG, has indicated that he would be prepared to host a QRS period Thursday evenings on 3558 from 1930 to 2100. The band conditions are frequently less than desired of course but I am sure it would be appreciated by our 'L Plate' members

FOR SALE

Brian, G4WYG, has a 4 section Altron tower plus 3 ele Jaybeam (10/15/20) for sale. He doesn't quote QRK but if interested, pse e-mail <g4wyg@milnet.uk.net> or phone 01322-613296

GACW - URL

Raul, LU6EF/AY6EF (Coordinator for GACW) asks me to point out that their web-site is located at: <http://gacw.no-ip.org>

Also, from our Maurice (F5NQL0, an interesting site

<http://hamgallery.com/> if (as he says) you are interested in souvenirs of Sam.

His email to me was a plea for any QSL cards from the deleted countries FI8 (French Indo China - now Viet Nam) or FN8 (French Indian settlements of Ponfichery, Chandernagor, Mahe, Yanaon or Karikal before Oct 31, 1954. These are required for display on the Ham Gallery. It is understood that these are very rare ones and their owners would be loathe to part with them so good film, photocopy or a computerized (BMP or JPG) format picture would be acceptable.

The 'curator' I gather is Tom, K8CX and he may be contacted at <k8cx@hamgallery.com>.

FOC INITIATIVE

I will get the details to you later but FOC has sought approval from FISTS for inclusion in their merit award scheme to encourage newcomers. Seemingly, the acquisition of FISTS numbers amongst others counts towards the award.

QSL INFO

The following via email from Grant, G0UQF for attention of all affected (G3) members:

"Hi Geo hope alls well your side . Please put this in keynote:

I apologise if you got your mail with just a few cards in or wrong cards. For the past six weeks I have had a trapped nerve in my back and my left leg been very painful. It is still not right and am typing this standing up as I cannot sit down . My granddaughter age 12 as been helping me 73 Grant."

Unfortunate phrase Grant indicating that your left leg is still not right - my left leg has not been right for years and I know of no-one who's right leg is left apart from the guy who lost his left leg so his right one is left. Sorry mate.... it is my distorted sense of humour and I found it hard to resist. Hi. Trust things are on the mend though and many of us will be able to sympathise. Those little wiggly things on your spine can be a real nuisance.

ELVASTON CASTLE

Sadly, the bump arrived a little too late for inclusion in last month's Keynote but for clubs, they have available two professional videos. One of the 2001 Elvaston Rally and the t'other following the events of a fox hunt both events organised by the Nunsfield House AR Group. There is no charge but postage both ways is required (£2.00 total) from G1CUH.32 Arlington Drive, Alveston, DE24 0AU. It is well documented that I have a brain and memory of the Pooh Bear so, if they would perhaps jog my memory a little earlier next year?

AND THE NETHERLAND ANTILLES

Our Chris (G0HFX) sent me a QSL card showing a group of roaming hams located at Curacao. Unfortunately, the card has been professionally printed on a 3-colour press and the associated picture, being constructed around something like a 150 dpi grid, meant that I was unable to scan it successfully. However, they will be active again with PJ2Y or perhaps even PJ2\G0HFX some time this month from around July 22 to August 1. Keep an ear open folks! The group comprised 9 operators so I guess there has to be some conflict of interests but on their last trip, they managed around 13,000 QSOs which were roughly 50/50 CW and SSB. Since they are competing in IOTA event, you may have to fight through pile-ups.

GRENADA TRIP

The operator here is J3/G0STR and although Bill is unable to be specific about operating times (it is a family holiday) he will be QRV Aug 6/20 primarily on 40/20 Metres using a QRP setup. Bill harks back to the last trip (three years ago) when he worked all over Europe.

THOSE IRCs

Well heck! I amassed so many of the older type which no-one seemed to want that I took 'em off to the local post office. Their value will be deducted from the mailing bill for this month but perhaps half a dozen had no stamp from the originating office and hence were valueless. For those of you holding these, it may be possible to use them to discount the cost of postage on DX QSL cards since they will undoubtedly find their way back into the system but is it legal and I wonder just how many of them are currently in circulation with no-one aware that they cannot be redeemed in the official manner over a post office counter?

I am beginning to collect quite a few of the new IRCs here and rather than trade them in for a paltry 38p stamp, I am happy to 'flog' them off at 50p to members. Pse ask first to ensure availability.

Not certain how much they actually cost over the counter these days but you can be sure of one thing - it's a rip off!

MYSTERY CLUB CALL

"Instead of a lot of letters sent for years to the French Authorities, the official on line french Ham address book, give always the following information about the F5KBP (ex FF1LBP) ARC (F5KBP) Radio Club du Réseau des Emmeteurs Français, Section del'Yonne, REF89

A l'attention de F5NQL etc

As given by the french official means of information, some Callbooks give also this same false information.

To day some one are using again this call sign in SSB. There were QSO especially on the Italian Castles traffic.

The members of the former F5KBP (ex FF1LBP) apologize for that, but they have no concern in this traffic.

The former F5KBP (ex FF1LBP) ARC activities were transferred in 1996 to the Military Police School of MONETEAU ARC F5KCC which became after the close down, the Union Sportive et Culturelle de Moneteau ARC, F5KCC, wich is already active.

So would you note :

Before 31 of Dec 1995.

FF1LBP, F5KBP, QSL via F5NQL, direct ou through the bureau

After the 1st of January 1996 :

F5KBP : Pirate

and for F5KBP ARC : Radio Club de l'Union Sportive et Culturelle de Moneteau :

F5KCC, QSL via F5NQL, directe ou bureau.

F5KCC's members hope to see you down their log very soon.

73 de F5NQL, F5KCC ARC Sec & QSL mgr".

Maurice also notes that FR5ZU is again on Tromelin Island (IOTA AF031, DIFO FR006) and (time permitting) will be QRV for about a month signing FR5ZU/T.

MAY LADDER RESULTS

Hi all. The results for the May Ladder are as detailed below. Congratulations to Tom, G0SCP, for winning for the second time and giving Peter a bit of competition. Hi Hi. We had 6 entrants this month and welcome to Derek, M0DRK, for his first log.

We are about to have a new contest manager but not sure if when he will take over the ladder, more details to follow.

Many thanks to all those who took the trouble to send in a log.

73 Keith

| May result | | Yearly total | |
|------------|-----|--------------|------|
| G0SCP | 332 | G4LHI | 1006 |
| G4LHI | 220 | G0SCP | 887 |
| M5ABN | 113 | M5ABN | 402 |
| GW0SGG | 70 | GW0SGG | 180 |
| M0DRK | 22 | G3VQO | |
| 145OH7QR | 17 | M0CMQ | 63 |
| G0MRH | 49 | | |
| OH7QR | 33 | M0DRK | 22 |

The two top runners are still clear of the field in Yearly results but at least a small number of you are having some fun with the event. Be nice if a few more of you would join in though to put the top group under some pressure and don't forget that the monthly score is up for grabs in any given month - you start from scratch!

OVERSEAS SUBS

Cost of International Funds Transfer.

The costs of transferring EU Subs to FISTS appears to be an irritating problem for members and the Committee alike. However your paragraph in Keynote (June 2002) contains a some hidden assumptions which need (private) discussion. But I can only discuss the way things are done in the Netherlands; it may

be different in other countries in the Eurozone.

As of 1 January 2002, Eurocheques are no longer accepted in The Netherlands; Dutch banks do not issue them to clients any more. (In fact we don't pay by cheque anymore here; inland payments are all done by bank-to-bank or electronic transfers).

So far I have discovered five ways to make payments abroad from the Netherlands, (There may be others of which I don't know).

(1) by credit card (with the usual costs for the recipient). Dutch traders are not keen on credit cards (maybe its the costs and the delays?) and many shops here don't take them at all. Mastercard

enjoys the largest share of the sparse usage. Visa and Amex much less so and Diners Club hardly ever. A lot of people can't see why they should pay charges associated with using credit cards when other (electronic) payment methods are free to the consumer and a transfers to the trader's account are instantaneous at the time of sale.

(2) International Postal Draft to the UK costs the sender Euro 25.00 (about 16 pounds); I have no information about costs at your end.

(3) Bank-to-bank transfer via SWIFT currently costs Euro 7.50 (about 5 pounds) per transfer excluding the recipient's costs in the UK;

(4) Banker's guaranteed cheque also costs at least Euro 7.50 per transfer excluding the exchange costs and the recipient's encashment costs in the UK.

Sending Euro notes in an envelope is not forbidden here as far as I know, but registration costs are not negligible and FISTS gets saddled with the exchange costs. Alternatively one can buy Sterling notes (but not coin) over the counter here but although the Bank of England prints fivers, it doesn't yet print a two pound note. It is thus difficult to put seven quid in an envelope and post it.

The only solution I can suggest is to have a uniform annual membership fee of five pounds for UK and overseas members alike with 'Keynote' sent by E-mail. It might loosen things up a little. Alternatively

FISTS may have to 'bite the bullet' and get a credit card account, or (dare I say it) even vote for the introduction of the Euro into the UK 'Mike PA7XG'

Having seen the costs involved in sending a few quid to the UK, it seems to make financial sense to stuff a few Euros or US dollars etc into an envelope with opaque wrapping because even if it does get lost in the mail, it is still cheaper than the alternatives. Does the above mean that it would still cost 7.50 Euros to transfer funds from an Austrian to a German or indeed French to a Swiss bank? Here am I trying to keep costs down and being punished for my efforts by the bankers!

URLs

Get the feeling that I should be holding many many more than those which I now copy from an ASCII text file but there seems to be some interest in this area so... here they are:

AGCW <http://www.qsl.net/agcw>
 FISTS (EU) <http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>
 FISTS (US) <http://www.FISTS.org>
 FISTS (ZL) <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>
 G0HGA <http://www.qsl.net/g0hga/>
 G0RDO <http://www.morsecode.freemove.co.uk>
 G0TBD <http://www.skywave.thersgb.net/>
 Georgia <http://www.qsl.net/nc4cw>
 Liverpool <http://www.wkweb5.cableinet.co.uk/>
 jonesy' Radio.htm
 USS Pampino <http://www.members.home.net/k6df>

Sites of interest

FOC <http://www.home3.inet.tele.dk/rene/email/email.html>
 GACW <http://gacw.no-ip.org>
 Bletchley Park <http://www.gb2bp@geocities.com>
 Solar activity <http://www.maj.com/sun/>
 DX-peditions <http://www.mayer.com.ar>
 Geomagnetic info http://http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/GEOMAG/kp_ap.html
 WWV Reports <http://www.txt>
 HearCW <http://www.rogerwendell.com/hearcw.html>
 ? <http://www.observe.ivv.nasa.gov>
 ? <http://www.dbarlow@enterprise.net>
 ? <http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/uham>
 ? <http://www.sintel.net/pub/msdos/hamradio/>
 Souvenirs <http://hamgallery.com/>
 Find a Ham <http://qrz.com>

COAST STATION CLOSURE

The following from MM via Ralph, ZL2AOH:
 On 30th June 2002 at 2359 UTC Australian Coast Stations Brisbane radio/VIB, Darwin radio/VID, Melbourne radio/VIM, Perth radio/VIP, Sydney radio/VIS and Townsville radio/VIT will officially close down. Our final broadcast will be made on frequencies 2182, 4125, 6215, 8291, 12290 and 16420 kHz at approx 2350UTC.

Australia's coast radio service started in February 1912 - two months before the Titanic disaster and has continued uninterrupted through two world wars but has not survived technology, business or government legislation.

The guarding of the airwaves in the Australian Search and Rescue Region will now be handed over to a New Zealand company, TVNZ, who have constructed two new radiostations at Charleville in Queensland (Callsign VIC) and Wiluna in Western Australia (Callsign VIW) and will provide Digital Selective Calling (DSC) facilities with follow-on communications via R/T or FEC modes.

At this time we remember and salute all the radio officers past and present who without their dedication and skill, many lives on the high seas would have been lost.

Peter Hewitson

Web: <http://coastradio.info> Email: info@coastradio.info

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4PXQ. George, because of his location, worked the GB90MGY commemorative station on 18.076 and the 25W he was running was perhaps unnecessary since they are only a few miles distant from each other. He also managed the GB50 from Windsor Castle on 5 bands and is currently awaiting the 'wallpaper'. G0OSR. Olivers' Corsair seems to have given up the ghost. Not only has he been unable to repair it but he cannot find anyone who is prepared to do so. "Too old" appears to be the general response when enquiring about possible surgery so the lad got out his soldering kit and has recently put the final screw into the case of a K2. Heard a lot about those kits Oliver and they seem to be not only popular but effective also. G0ELZ. Spent the Jubilee week on board HMS Belfast and it would seem that a good time was had by all especially since the old girl seemed to have been used as a navigation point when the the RAF fly past turned on the red, white and blue smoke as they flew directly overhead. He was also exposed to the dubious treat of experiencing a ripple salvo fired from the main forward 6inch turret. The guns were layed at the Post Office tower but seemingly missed ?? Found him on the bands with GB2PLY also so it would seem that our Bill has a thing for buoyant shacks! G3HZL. Got a nice response to the EUCW certificate from Don who, despite a gammy leg and creaky joints appears to be faring well. Was disappointed that more interest was not shown in the Jubilee contest when he made lots of contacts on 10, 15 and 20M but with surprisingly few US stations who are usually prominent with BERU. Worked S58MU prior to his membership so was happy to read the news last month. District nurses switch him on so although he is happy that his leg wound is responding to antibiotics, a complete cure will rob him of their periodic appearances. Hmmm! GB0000. The operator for the Scarborough Special Events Group on June 1 was G0UUU and I was delighted when their QSL card flopped through the letter box. It sports a splendid photograph of Her Majesty which, I gather, was obtained only after lot of raking round. Lots of photographs available of course but subject to copy right. They tried Buckingham Palace, RSGB, local rags, libraries and various other departments without success and were finally rewarded for their efforts by OFTEL (the Office of Telecomms) who dug up a fine photograph from the Royal Image library at Buckingham Palace. Wouldn't you think that on an occasion like this there would be a batch of suitable photographs free of copyright? You have to be joking mate! My thanks to Roy, G4SSH for this info who invites us to look out for 'em during the International Lighthouse Weekend.

| NEW MEMBERS | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|--------|------|--------|--------|
| 8920 | SWL3 | Vic | 8921 | ZS1AN | Andrew |
| 8922 | M0CVR | Dan | 8923 | M1TOP | Topy |
| 8924 | G3KJX | Brian | 8925 | GW4HDB | Mike |
| 8926 | G3TDL | Rich | 8927 | GW0VMX | Ken |
| 8928 | G4MOI | Doug | 8929 | G4DZV | Fred |
| 8930 | G4CKH | Graeme | 8931 | G3DTP | Andy |
| 8932 | M0HAM | Conrad | | | |

BUSAN TELEGRAPH CLUB

From Cho, HL5AP, I received the following information concerning the Busan Club awards.

These guys have almost the same award structure as we do in FISTS with diamond, gold, silver and bronze awards. Their 'SPARKS' Gold ward requires 30, Silver 15 and Bronze 5 BTC members logged whilst the MCOAA (Morse Code Operating Active Award) requires Diamond, 5000, Gold 2500, Silver 1000 and Bronze 500 QSOs and I see no demands for any of these to be BTC members. No QSLs but signatures of two licensed hams. Logs plus \$7.00 (US) or 10 IRCs to Cho who is the awards manager.

I am offered a list of around 80 on the BTC membership list and, if band condx permit, you are urged to look out for HL5 and DS5. The club station incidentally is 6L0UR and is certainly going to be worth braving the pile-up for! This info included with his Cho's membership renewal for which I thank him.

AFFILIATIONS

It has been quite a while since I took a look at the affiliations list and it has turned up some nice surprises. Here are the four main categories for the EU/DX group with their figures:

| | |
|----------|-----|
| RNARS | 70 |
| RFARS 90 | |
| RSARS 94 | |
| GQRP | 246 |

As you can see, we have quite a significant number of members who are affiliated to the G-QRP and a goodly number of these are also members of the Societies above. There are of course others (BYLARA, ARRL, and a host of European clubs) quoted on application forms but the above are the main focus of interest.

Not sure if other Societies keep tabs on their affiliations in this way - possibly not - but it satisfies my nosey nature. Hi.

Another items included in the app form is the 'other interests' question and this also turns up a cornucopia of surprises. They vary enormously from all manner of music (professional musicians included), photography, cooking, home-brew beer and wine, vintage cars and motorcycles, gliding, surfing, bird watching (feathered and otherwise), archeology etc. etc. We are blessed with a number of clerical gentlemen, active and retired policemen, civil airline pilots, architects and - perhaps in over-abundance - those who fall into my own bracket of professional layabout. A broad church indeed!

AWARDS

Who says they are hard to get? Up to now (from the latest listings by K6DF) there are 173 members who have got the lot i.e. Century, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, Platinum250, Platinum500 and the Millenium award.

KLEZ

Ralph, ZL2AOH, distributes information from the supplier of his virus checker concerning this particular worm. Not only is it the most prevalent and consistent piece of malware since Love Letter but it appears to be growing.

"The writer of KLEZ programmed it to create a very large variety of subject lines, and message body texts. To the extent that a user that was bitten once may not recognize that s/he is offered the same booby trap for a second time, in a different dress. We know users that were trapped two and even five times by KLEZ!"

- Lastly, the most clever "feature" of Klez is the spoofing of the sender's address. Since the address in the "from" field is not that of the true sender, then infected users cannot be warned by the recipient of the infected e-mail, ending in the widening of the infected users circle."

Check the home page of your anti virus supplier. You will almost certainly find a small one-shot program that will check your drives for the existence of Klez and remove it. Use this after checking your mailbox and BEFORE opening any attachments.

E-MAIL ADDRESS (AGAIN)

We still have a number of members who are using hotmail though Andy has warned that it does not allow sufficient space for Keynote + News from Down Under. He says:

QSL.net may have been suffering the same email overload as the rest of the system just lately, thanks to worms, viruses etc, so I'll give all QSL.net addresses that bounce a second chance to successfully forward their mail. If the QSL.net addresses fail a second time, they'll be deleted automatically as well.

It could be that qsl.net is adopting the same stingy tactics as MS and hotmail and it could be that any attachment greater than 50Kbytes may well be booted out by both of them the way things are going.

FINALE

Sorry we have run out of space again folks but having got rid of this issue, perhaps I can actually switch the rig on to work rather than just monitor. Hi.

At the time of closing this one it is raining (again) and our prospects of Summer seem to be diminishing rapidly. 73/88 people. Stay sober and I'll see you on the bands.